



TUSTIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

PARISH PRESS

OCTOBER 2020

The most up-to-date information can always be found on our website: www.tustinpresbyterian.org.

NOW MORE THAN EVER **Steve Ranney, Pastor**

Over these last few months, as the world limped by, I have found myself struggling with despair. I watched as a microscopic virus ground the world to a halt. People lost their jobs, business collapsed, people died, and I was prohibited from being with people that I love and deeply care about. Then we watched as a man that had sworn to “Protect and Serve” callously killed another man because he didn’t like him, and it opened old and some not so old wounds. The protests, riots and random attacks against the police that followed showed how deep and painful those wounds are. Now as the political season revs up, we see further evidence of the widening divides in our country. Hatred and anger seem to have deeply stained the fabric of our country, not to mention the rest of our world. To make matters worse, there seem to be people out there that are seeking to whip up the turmoil for their own gain. They don’t care if the world burns as long as they can grab power or wealth or ???.

I find myself crying out like the Psalmist, “How long O Lord? When will you swoop in and do something to change all of this? When will you stop the hate-filled people and bring peace to our world? Why don’t you do something?” Even as I find myself blaming God for inaction, I realize that this is why we as Christians and as Tustin Presbyterian Church are here. God has called us to be that light in the darkness. We not only need to be a community of believers that shows the world how to be a loving community, but we also need to be a community that invites people of every race, gender, social status, political affiliation, personality type, ..., to join with us in seeking to know God more fully and to show the love of God, wherever it is needed. That is what God calls us to do and to be.

In order to do that, we need to do a few things. First, we need to examine our hearts to see where hate has found a foothold. Who are those people that you despise and wish ill upon? It could be individuals or groups. Jesus’ call to love our enemies does not come with any exceptions. I must admit that I can find myself allowing hatred to slip into my heart when I deem someone particularly offensive because they do not agree with me. During this political season, I see that happening quite a bit.

(Continued on next page)

Second, ask God to help us do surgery to remove that hate. When that anger and hate finds a crevasse in my heart to take up residence, I need to confess it and ask God to help me remove it. God just won't take it away from me; I have to be willing and desire to be free of that hate.

Third, seek to grow in our relationship with Christ, so we can learn to truly love our enemies. The key to this is found in the words of one of my favorite hymns:

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His wonderful face
And the things of Earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and Grace.

Fourth, ask God to give us the strength to act with love toward those enemies, not just give lip service. It is not enough to say we want to be like Christ. We have to live it. It will not be easy, and we will make many, many, many, many, false steps, but that is where Grace comes in.

Now, more than ever, the world needs us to be the church of Jesus Christ. This is why we are here in this time and in this place. Let's show Tustin, Orange County, California, the USA and the World who we are.

*******CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS AND TPC EVENTS*******

Some of the articles that follow may discuss events that were originally planned for October but which have been postponed or cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. Other articles may present information about events planned for October and later that have not yet been changed. Some of these events, however, may also have to be modified, postponed or cancelled in the coming days. Further information will be made available as the restrictions on gatherings that will be in effect during October are clarified.

SIMPLE GUIDE TO SERMON LISTENING

A simple way to grow through the sermon is to seek to complete the three following statements:



1. One point I heard in the sermon today was....
2. One way I can apply this in my life is....
3. This sermon brought to mind....

COMMUNION SCHEDULE
Communion will be celebrated on
Sunday, October 4



PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING



The Peace and Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and across the world. This Offering will be received on World Communion Sunday, October 4.

Today, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is actively engaged in peacemaking and reconciliation in more than 50 countries. Through our partner churches and organizations, our reach is extended to 100 countries. Your gift helps the PC(U.S.A.) do even more. In too many places around the world, peace is merely a hope. Conflicts between nations, peoples, and ideas put peace at risk everywhere. During the Season of Peace, we recognize that too many people live in situations that are both unsettled and unjust.

Your gift to the Peace and Global Witness Offering works to address these deep-seated problems by supporting efforts to inspire, equip, and connect Presbyterians engaging in ministries of reconciliation and peace around the world. Through missions, work projects and education, we witness to the peace of Christ for our sisters and brothers as they face some of the greatest challenges of our time.

Peace begins with us. When we think of conflict, many of us think of places mired in war, a world away. Yet often, some of our greatest opportunities to witness to the Prince of Peace are right outside our doors. When you give to the Peace and Global Witness Offering, 25% of your gift is retained by TPC, bringing the power of reconciliation and the peace of Christ to our community. Traditionally one-half of this amount has been designated to send members of our youth group to Presbyterian Youth Triennium. The other half has been used to promote peace in our community in many ways.

Your generous support of the Peace and Global Witness Offering compels change in cultures of violence. Together with the Peacemaking Program and World Mission, our community in Christ builds communities of peace. Peace is active, not passive; peace is doing, not waiting. Your gifts will help more people experience the freedom and dignity that Christ wants for everyone. Let us offer the peace of Christ in all times and all ways.

Please give generously!

BEER: PROOF GOD LOVES US AND WANTS US TO BE HAPPY

The group will be meeting on October 7 and October 21, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. If you would like to join the group, please contact Pastor Steve Ranney at sranney@tustinpresbyterian.org for login details.



THE UPPER ROOM DAILY DEVOTIONAL (SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER)

The Upper Room Daily Devotional is available for mailing upon request. If you would like us to mail you a copy, please contact Patty Sanchez at receptionist@tustinpresbyterian.org, or you can get an electronic copy online at <https://www.upperroom.org/standingorderchurches>.

TPC SPANISH MINISTRY

The Spanish Ministry has started a Sunday worship service via Facebook. If you would like to download the service, go to the TPC Facebook page on Sundays at 12:00 p.m. The group is also meeting via Instant Messenger every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to join them, please contact Patty Sanchez at 714-864-8549.



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE VIA FACEBOOK





THE PRISCILLA PATTERSON PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

If you would like to knit or crochet prayer shawls, please contact Patricia Stout at 714-875-1009 or at pcs-3@cox.net. She will give you access to the yarn, complying with all social distancing and face mask requirements.

DEACONS' FUND

Did you know that the TPC Deacons are funded solely by donations? If you give regularly to TPC, you have gold and white envelopes in your box. This offering is welcome at any time, but it has traditionally been a part of our communion service on the first Sunday of each month. Please consider giving a gift to the Deacons' Fund. It will be money well spent.



Deacons' Fund

DEACONS IN ACTION



The Deacons and the Spanish Ministry joined forces to bake delicious cookies and deliver them to people on the prayer list.

HABITAT NEWS



As you probably know, Habitat for Humanity OC work sites have been closed to major construction starting with the discovery of the coronavirus. However, Habitat OC has informed us that three families were recently able to move into their new homes. There is hope that construction on the next four-home phase will begin this fall and volunteers will be allowed back onto the work site. You will be kept informed of updates as they become available.

SCRIP NEWS

Scrip is still available! You just need to contact Janette Ditekowsky by telephone at 714-350-8668 or by email at jtditekowsky@gmail.com, and you can make a plan to get the scrip that you need for:



- Groceries: Stater Bros, Vons/Albertsons, Sprouts, Smart & Final, Walmart and Target
- Take-Out Food: We have a big list. Call Janette, and ask her if she has your favorite!
- Ordering Online: Amazon
- Home Projects: Home Depot, Target, Walmart and Staples
- Gifts: Amazon and Barnes & Noble

Every time you buy Scrip, you benefit in two ways:

1. You receive the full-face value of the gift certificates.
2. You contribute a percentage of the total to the TPC Music Program.

WANTED: CLERK OF SESSION

Richard Loebler has informed the Session that he will be leaving the position of Clerk of Session at the end of the year after 29 years of service in this role. Richard plans to relocate to Georgia where he lived prior to coming to California in 1987. He will be moving to a new retirement community just outside of Athens, Georgia that is being opened by Presbyterian Homes of Georgia. This will allow him to be closer to his family members who live in South Carolina and Georgia. The community is still under construction, so the date of his move is not yet known, but it is expected to be sometime in the middle of 2021.



Because of Richard's move, the Session is seeking a person to serve as the new Clerk of Session beginning in January. The person must be an ordained elder or be willing to be ordained to the office prior to beginning service. The person does not have to be an active member of the Session to serve as the Clerk. Richard will be available to work with the new Clerk while he is still here and will help as much as possible by telephone and email after he moves. If you are interested in serving as the new Clerk of Session or have questions about the position, please contact Pastor Steve Ranney.

LIBRARY

The youth have offered to deliver library books to individuals. If you are aware of a title you would like to borrow, please let Sandy Alford know. She'll add it to the list of tasks that the youth perform on a weekly basis. Unfortunately, we don't have a catalog of books. You'll need to rely on your memory or ask for a specific author.



THE 2020 TPC GIVING TREE — A LITTLE TALK

Q: Will the Mission Committee still be having the Giving Tree this year?

A: Yes! The same, old Giving Tree! But the process will be a little different...

Q: So, what's the same?

A: Well, we'll still be filling gift bags for each girl and boy on our list with a small present and a \$25 gift card for clothing or shoes, and we're still filling Christmas boxes with groceries (two bags and \$50 in grocery gift cards each) for the families of each child on our list.



GIVING TREE

Q: I forgot. Where do we get the list from?

A: The City of Tustin. They'll be sending us the list in mid-October.

Q: Sounds great! How do I pick up a bag and sign up?

A: That's what's different for this year. We won't be having traditional sign-ups, and you won't be filling a particular bag. This year, it will be more of a group event. Throughout the month of November, we will be collecting donations made out to *Tustin Presbyterian Church* and designated to the *Giving Tree*. Then the TPC Shopper will make the purchases we need to fill the bags and boxes.

Q: How much money does the Mission Committee need to raise?

A: We'll know better after we get the list and start making purchases, but at least \$4,000. (Groceries have gone up, but we may save some money buying in bulk!) Watch this space in November for more information.

Q: This is all sounding kind of impersonal. I like to be more hands on.

A: Understood! Folks like you are invited to volunteer for our *Giving Tree Assembly Team*. In mid-December, you can join a happy band of masked, gloved, and socially distanced gift wrappers, bag stuffers, and box fillers in the Fellowship Hall, preparing our gifts for pick-up by the City of Tustin. Watch this space in November for how to register your interest.

Q: I suppose I could try that. It's a little bit of a bummer, though. This pandemic...

A: I hear you. But remember, it's just for this year. I'd also like you to consider how the same pandemic, the one that is leading to these modifications, has slammed the most vulnerable in our community so that the need is greater than ever before. If there ever was a time to continue the Giving Tree, this is the year! Please plan to give generously! And watch this space to keep informed!

CARE, GIVE, RECYCLE

YOUR USED EYEGASSES CAN HELP SOMEONE SEE BETTER.

One of the many ways Lions Clubs help in their communities is to collect used eyeglasses. These glasses go to California Lions Friends in Sight to be refurbished, read and distributed to the underprivileged. If you would like to donate your used glasses, please contact Patty Sanchez by email at receptionist@tustinpresbyterian.org. California Lions Friends in Sight also provides free vision screenings. If you would like to get more information about this program, go to <https://clfis.info/free-vision-screening/>.



BLESSED ARE THE DISTANCE LEARNERS



*The Beatitudes teach us
to count our blessings!*

*A student
decorates
a mini
backpack to
hold records
of her
blessings.*



With bags of supplies distributed to families at home monthly and videos recorded by Mrs. Lori and posted online weekly, TPC Preschoolers – Fifth Graders are climbing the mountain with Jesus to explore the Beatitudes, all from the safety of their homes. Using a new curriculum designed specifically for remote learning, this twelve-week study of Matthew 4:23 – 5:12 will continue through November 22. (Curious about our videos? Try a sample at <http://bit.ly/Beat2020List>.)



YOUTH NEWS

With the start of school, schedules have been changing and we have been adjusting to this new normal, but we have continued to enjoy our virtual youth group once a week and our social distance dinners together once a week as well. We have some fun and safe trips and activities planned for the fall and are continuing to do our grocery runs and Flamingo Flocking for charity!



SESSION SUMMARY

The following are the significant items from the September stated Session meeting:

- Approved several upcoming activities for the youth.
- Approved Sue Currie as the Moderator of the Church Officer Nominating Committee for 2020.
- Approved the liaisons from TPC to the Tustin Community Preschool and Set Apart for the 2020/2021 school year.
- Approved a change in the date of the October stated Session meeting from October 19 to October 26.
- Approved the distribution of \$20,643 during 2021 from the income from the Endowment Fund.
- Approved the plans for “Advent Celebration in a Box” — a no-contact, drive-in event to be held on Saturday, November 28, from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., in the TPC parking lot.
- Approved a modified, socially-distanced drive-through Trunk or Treat event on Thursday, October 29, from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Approved an abatement for Tustin Taiwanese Presbyterian Church for the facility usage fee due in October and November 2020.
- Approved a waiver of the monthly contributions from Tustin Community Preschool through December 31, 2020.
- Approved the schedule for communion for 2021.



FINANCE REPORT – OPERATIONS ACCOUNT

Period: January 1 – August 30, 2020

Income: **\$477,399.46** Expenses: **\$411,973.74**

Surplus as of August 30, 2020: \$65,425.72

Your gifts serve God’s work. Thank you for your continued support!

TUSTIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Steve Ranney	Ext 103
Chancel Choir Director.....	Colin Stave	Ext 109
Organist	Dr. Dennis Siebenaler	
Director of Children’s Ministries	Lori Ruff-Schmalenberger	Ext 104
Director of Youth Ministries/Worship Assistant	Emily Fuentes	Ext 105
Bell Choir Director	Caitlin Stave	
Administrative Assistant	Brenda Barrios	Ext 108
Financial Secretary	Martha Romick	Ext 106
Receptionist.....	Patty Sanchez	Ext 101

SESSION COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2020

COMMITTEE

Christian Education
Endowment
Fellowship
Finance
Membership & Outreach
Mission
Nominating
Personnel
Property
Stewardship
Worship

MODERATOR

Char Derby
Bill Groves
Heather Philips
Bill Groves
Martin Loth
Sue Currie
Sue Currie
John Kleponis
David Young
Bob Evans
Gail Greek

VICE-MODERATOR

Kathy French
Bob Evans

Sue Currie
Angel Ocampo

Ryan Reithmeier

Clerk of Session: Richard Loeble
Church Treasurer: Bill Groves
Corporation President: David Young
Corporation Vice-President: Heather Philips
Corporation Secretary: Richard Loeble
Corporation Treasurer: Bill Groves

TUSTIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

225 West Main Street at "C" Street

Tustin, California 92780-4319

Phone: 714-544-7070

Fax: 714-544-1948

Email: info@tustinpresbyterian.org

October 2020 Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	 <p style="text-align: center;">Please watch for updated information and plan to join us when we are able to resume our regular worship services and other activities.</p>			1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

TO BE DETERMINED

BR: Bride's Room; CE: Christian Education Building; CR: Choir Room; FH: Fellowship Hall; FL: Fireside Lounge
 GR: Groom's Room; K: Kitchen; L: Library; MPR: Multi-Purpose Room; O: Office; P: Patio; PL: Parking Lot; S: Sanctuary
 SR: Scout Room; TCP: Tustin Community Preschool; TTPC: Tustin Taiwanese Presbyterian Church; YL: Youth Lounge