



TEMPLE UMC

January 2020

New Car Smell

It happened again! If you are reading this then you know that we all have just been handed something very special. We have all been given a “brand...spanking-new” New Year. The gift of a New Year is for many folks an invitation to begin again, start over, get a fresh start, turn over a new leaf...etc. It can be a time with which to do some very special things. OR not. It’s really up to us.

Newness is something that we have grown to appreciate. Who doesn’t enjoy that “new car” smell, the aroma of new leather shoes plucked from the box, or the feel of that nice new shirt you just opened on Christmas day? Even now, the New Year’s resolutions that we have made have that new car smell to them. Our resolve is high to make this year different than other years. But if the truth be told, the average time between the moment we make our resolutions and their demise is a sad three weeks. By that time all the newness has been aired out of them – and they become mere chores. It’s one of the reasons I don’t make resolutions anymore.

I’d like to offer an alternative for the New Year’s enthusiasm. What if instead of focusing on “newness” we put our focus on provisions for the journey?

Have you noticed how we are a culture that, when faced by the unknown, likes to stock up on what we need? I paused in the parking lot of Home Depot to acknowledge a man pushing a cart filled with bags and bags of rock-salt. He explained that with “Michigan winters you can never have enough salt.” The next issued “Winter Storm Alert” will have people scrambling to the stores “stocking up” for the possibility that they’ll be sheltering in place against a blizzard.

I’ve often been fascinated why a snowstorm requires bread, milk and eggs, any more than any other day in the year. But apparently, it makes our anxious egos less riled up.

So, my question for you is this. Focus on the year ahead. What are the most important “provisions” that you will need for the journey? When you think about the most challenging times in your life, what are the most important things that have tided you over? When I think of some of the precious things that have gotten me through the challenging times, I realize that a majority of these things take up little or no physical space. It then begins to make sense why Jesus always encouraged his disciples to travel light [Mark 6: 8-9]. Perhaps his point was to focus them, not to be impoverished, but to clear their vision of material things so that they can clearly see the most precious provisions of all: other people, and the presence of God in those people. Of the most precious things on my journey, I count the kind non-judgmental presence of friends in dark hours. I stockpile in my mind the sound of their voices. I also hoard within my soul those moments when I have been transported by beauty far beyond the ordinary. The ring of truth in scripture, a perfect poem, or word of wisdom from a spiritual master. And those transcendent moments when I hear the voice of God in the idle silence of a sit or through music or song. These are some of my provisions for the times of storm.

So, at the beginning of this new journey of 2020, as you unload the rock-salt and put away the milk, eggs and bread, I invite you to contemplate this: “who and what are the real provisions of your life?” Think of them, and store them away in that special part of your heart that you reserve for precious things.

Happy New Year,

Pastor Jeff

What Temple Means to Me...

Over the summer, I was at a training for work in Muskegon with two friends, and I suggested that we go to Chicken Coop for lunch, and then I could stop by church real quick to pick up something I needed. "Wait," one of them said, "Chicken Coop is in the Heights. Why do you go to church in the Heights?" I didn't even know how to answer that question. There are so many reasons! Of course I go to church in the Heights! How do I even begin to explain it?

So... here is why I go to church in the Heights. Temple, or "The MAP church" as it is known to many of the people who visit it daily, is so important to the community. From Supper House, to MAP, to Pathfinders, to Family Promise... Temple is not a building that is only used from 10:00-11:30 a.m. every Sunday. The people of Temple happily give their time and money to these ministries, and they know the impact it is having on the people of the community.

Temple isn't a church that you walk into and are in awe of the beautifully, perfectly up kept building. That may turn some folks away, unfortunately. But if you stick around for a Sunday service, or visit Temple on a weekday and see Supper House, MAP, and Pathfinders in action, I think you will get it. If you stop by during our week to host Family Promise and see a baby being bathed in the kitchen sink, I think you will understand. This is Temple. This is why I go to church in the Heights. I love my perfectly imperfect church and all it does for its community. Lynsey Cutting

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC DESK



“Be part of the Band, be part of the Band! Pick up any instrument and do the best you can! Be part of the Band!” (Credit to Verve Pipe)

Yes, starting in January we are looking for musicians of EVERY kind to come together and form a Worship Band! If you have always wanted to be “Part of the Band”, please us know—contact Jackie Fisher or Lynsey Cutting—ASAP so we can set up practice time. We have percussion instruments, including a new set of congas! And will probably play once a month in worship—hope to hear from YOU soon! Jackie

TEMPLE WOMEN’S GROUP

Several women in our church have inquired about the need to rebirth an active women’s group at Temple. The United Methodist Women group, after generations of active service and mission, has simply lost momentum and purpose. While we celebrate and give thanks for the many years of faithful service to the local church, community and world, perhaps it’s time to begin again and create a women’s group at Temple that is relevant to the needs and purposes of the twenty-first century. If there are any women at Temple who share this same desire and need for a women’s group, please indicate your desire by signing your name and contact information to the sheet posted on the bulletin board.

Wondering if Church is Closed?

If the weather outside is frightful, you may check WZZM-13 to see if worship service is canceled. If church is not canceled, but you are worried about the roads, we encourage you to stay home and stay safe! To sign up for text alerts regarding closings, go to wzzm13.com.

Also, if Muskegon Heights Schools have a snow day, the church office might be closed. Please call the church before coming!



Supper House Snapshots - A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood

On November 23, 2019, Steve and I went to see the movie about Mr. Rogers titled "A Beautiful Day In The Neighborhood." We went over to Fremont to view the movie. It was very poignant, and I was weeping throughout much of it. On the way back to Muskegon, I said to Steve, "They could show this movie in church." The film was very theologically-based - *love your neighbor, do right by them, and welcome everyone.*

That theological statement was on our minds as we left Fremont and headed straight to the Supper House Thanksgiving meal at Temple UMC. We arrived at 1:25, and were greeted warmly by Pastor John from Making Timothies Christian Church, of Newaygo. We were approached by Ron from Pastor John's church, who greeted us, and sat for a spell. About the same time that we were served, Peter sang "Thank you, Jesus." Some of his poignant words were "I'm going home, I'm going home." Of course there was thunderous applause after his singing. He has recovered remarkably since his stroke. Peter has been coming to Supper House for 20 years and says that it has changed his life.

We sat with Darren and Holly. It was wonderful to get to know them. We were served our meal of macaroni and cheese, carrots, red skin potatoes, turkey, ham, stuffing, cranberries, and cake. We looked up from where we were eating and saw a banner (which was also put up outside). The banner said "Making Timothies Christian Church -- Love, Serve, Grow." This church has invested in reusable banners, showing their extended commitment to the Supper House community!



At that point, with our meal finished, we took our ticket that Pastor John had given us and went to where his church was handing out a boxed-up Thanksgiving meal. How extraordinarily generous this church is! They were very generous to come to Muskegon from Newaygo (from afar!) to treat their Muskegon "neighbors" to a Thanksgiving meal -- at the table, and as a take-home meal.

We must all stop and take a moment to be quiet and present. In the movie, Mr. Rogers was having a meal with his friend (the main character), and they stopped for a minute of silence. That reminds me of the scripture "Be still and know that I am God" which can be contemplatively used for centering whether at church or at home.

Both the movie at the start of the day, and later the meal at Supper House, made us realize that "It's A Beautiful Day In The Neighborhood - Won't You Be My Neighbor." There is a place at the table for everyone -- from those in Mr. Roger's neighborhood to those in the Muskegon Heights neighborhood. People have come to Supper House that view it as life-changing in many ways. One man in particular considers Supper House his "church." Supper House will keep doing what it's doing, and "Won't You Be My Neighbor" will indeed continue to be the wonderful result!

A quote attributed to Mr. Rogers:

The more I think about it, the more I wonder if God and neighbor are somehow One. "Loving God, loving neighbor" -- the same thing? For me, coming to recognize that God loves every neighbor is the ultimate appreciation.

- Thomas Shaffer [My conversation with Rev. Jerry Hagans will be in the February issue of the Temple newsletter.]

Spiritual Formation Opportunity

Discover your Enneagram Type

Enneagram groups will be forming in January for anyone who is interested in learning about the Enneagram or exploring the wisdom it has to offer. To accommodate diversity, a weekday group will be forming for Tuesday mornings 10:00-11:30 as well as an evening group on Thursday 6:30-8:00. Groups will begin meeting on Tuesday, January 28, and Thursday, January 30, in the Temple Parlor. The introductory segment *“The Enneagram as a tool for your Spiritual Journey”* is a nine-week video-based teaching on the Enneagram that features Russ Hudson (Co-Founder of the Enneagram Institute) and Fr. Richard Rohr (a long-time teacher of the Enneagram). These nine weeks will rock your world!

For those who wish to continue further, a segment two *“The ENNEAGRAM the Discernment of Spirits”* will be an option as well as continued advancement in breakout groups working with the *“Wisdom of the Enneagram”*.

IMPORTANT: In preparation, those who are interested in the work of a deeper discovery of self and thus of spiritual transformation in working with the Enneagram, **the place to begin is to discover your dominate number, type, compulsion...by taking a simple online test** [if you do not have access to technology, other methods for determining your type can be utilized]. It is important that you not feel overwhelmed by the complexity of the Enneagram at first glance. Don't try to figure everything out; the process of working with the Enneagram is just the opposite. We don't try to figure it out but rather the Enneagram works to reveal the hidden truth of self within us. It is an ongoing process of self-revelation, not a problem to be solved with absoluteness or certitude. We are a mystery sometimes to our own self. The Enneagram is a tool for discovery.

The Enneagram Institute offers a comprehensive personality test that can help you discern what Enneagram number or numbers you identify with the most. Just remember that while some people find this test helpful, it is only one step in applying the wisdom of the Enneagram to your life. Below are listed some sites for use in testing:

Enneagram Test Sites

Eclectic Energies (free)

<https://www.eclecticenergies.com/enneagram/test>

The Fast Enneagram Test (free)

<https://enneagramtest.net/>

Enneagram User Guide (free)

enneagramuserguide.com/enneagram-tests

True Self (free)

<https://app.trueself.io/profile/questions>

Your Enneagram Coach (free) Christian Approach

<https://www.youenneagramcoach.com/>

The Enneagram Institute (RHETI test \$12 fee)<https://tests.enneagraminstitute.com/>

January 2020

Birthdays

LITURGIST-GUNNAR CARLSON

Ushers

Carla Traxler, Sharon Long,
Jan & Joe Krypel

Coffee Hosts

5-
12-
19-
26-

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 Happy New Year! Office closed.	2	3	4
5 <i>Isobel Herbert</i>	6 11:30 & 5 Yoga	7 <i>Jan Krypel</i>	8	9 4:00 Choir	10	11 11:00 Yoga
Pastor's Annual Planning Retreat			Pastor's Annual Planning Retreat			
12 <i>Cheryl Bowman</i>	13 11:30 & 5 Yoga	14 <i>Marsha Black</i>	15	16 4:00 Choir	17 <i>Sheryl Coleman</i>	18 <i>Kimberly Nash</i>
Pastor Jeff on vacation		Pastor Jeff on vacation		Pastor Jeff on vacation		
19 <i>Normajean Carlson</i>	20 11:30 & 5 Yoga MLK Day- Office Closed.	21 6:00 Leadership Team	22 Temple Serves @Supper House <i>Shirley Gossett</i>	23 4:00 Choir	24	25 11:00 Yoga
26 <i>Austin Brown</i>	27 11:30 & 5 Yoga	28 10:00-11:30 Enneagram Group	29	30 4:00 Choir 6:30-8:00 Enneagram Group	31	

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Temple UMC



Temple's Team

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Office Manager:	Melissa Miller
Treasurer:	Sally Jacobs
Custodial & Maintenance:	Joe Krypel
Sound & Media:	Gayle Ingersoll
Organist/Music Director	Jackie Fisher

Reaching New Heights for Christ!