

THE TORCH

Volume 60, No. 2

February 2018



FASTING FROM APATHY

It seems like each day we wake up to more bad news. Whether it is another school shooting, another natural disaster, more sexual abuse allegations – it just seems that no day ends without news of more tragedy. I quite frankly get to the point where it is too much for me to process and I begin to get numb. More names than are possible to remember, more destruction than is possible to fathom. And, it would seem, distance too has an anaesthetizing effect. The further away the calamity, the harder it is to care deeply.

As the church moves into the season of Lent, we enter a time when many of us recommit to spiritual disciplines of prayer, study, and fasting. Often these are personal, focused on how we can be more in tune with our relationship with God. I am proposing that we take a different approach beginning February 15. Instead of fasting from sweets, I believe we could benefit from fasting from apathy. By that I mean that instead of hearing the news and shaking our heads in disbelief and then moving on, let us hold these places and people in our prayers. Let us enlarge our personal prayer time to encompass the people whose wounds are often too soon forgotten, whether they be in our congregation, community, nation, or world.

Here is a prayer that may help in that regard. After each ellipsis you may name specific intercessions:

God of grace, let our concern for others reflect Christ's self-giving love, not only in our prayers, but also in our practice. Especially we pray for:

those subjected to tyranny and oppression . . .

wounded and injured people . . .

those who face death . . .

Mighty God, with the dawn of your love you reveal your victory over all that would destroy or harm, and you brighten the lives of all who need you. Especially we pray for:

families suffering separation . . .

people different from ourselves . . .

those isolated by sickness or sorrow . . .

the victims of violence or warfare . . .

Healer of every ill, fill our souls to overflowing with the fullness of your grace. In this season, remind us of your triumph over the tragedy of the cross, and your victory for all over the powers of sin and death especially when it is hard to see and difficult to understand, so that we may reflect your glory as disciples of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen

Grace and Peace, Patrick

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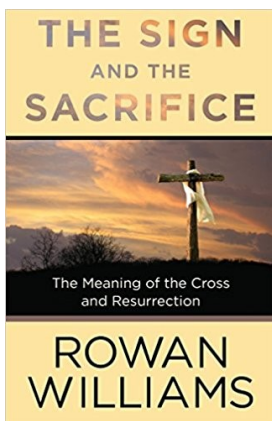
The monthly Newsletter of Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church
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CHRISTIAN FORMATION

THE SEASON OF LENT

On Wednesday, February 14th we will enter into the church season of Lent. This is a time we generally focus on our relationship with God, thinking about what draws us near to God and what keeps us away. Sometimes we choose to give up something or take on a new practice during this season. I hope you take some time to reflect this Lenten season and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you.

To help you direct your Lenten practice, please use the Lenten Calendar on page 13 to take a small moment each day, alone or as a family, and reflect on the three pillars of Lent: Prayer, Fasting and Service.



LENTEN STUDY

Lent is a time to engage in reflection, prayer and study.

If you are looking for a book to guide you, *The Sign and The Sacrifice* by Rowan Williams is a great place to start. The Tuesday Morning Prayer Group will be reading through this together. You are welcome to join us, or read it on your own. Please let Sarah Dennis know if you would like a copy. The books may be purchased for \$10.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, February 14th. There will be three services that day. The two day-time services – at 6:45 a.m. and 12 noon in John Knox Chapel – will be a short prayer service with the imposition of ashes. Following the Wednesday Night Supper on the 14th, there will be a more traditional Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary at 6:30 p.m.



CHRISTIAN FORMATION

CHURCH SCHOOL

There is a place for you at TPC Sunday mornings. If you have not tried a Sunday School Class, please come and join any class at any time.!

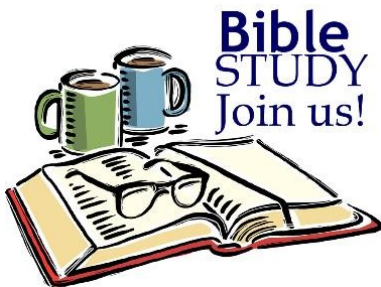


Adults offerings include:

The New Covenant Class – Room 106
The Forum Class – Room 108
The Discovery Class – Room 200

Youth and Children's offerings include:

Middle School Youth – Room 208
High School Youth – Room 206
2 and 3 year old's – Room 100
4 year old - Kindergarten – Room 103
1st-3rd graders – Room 105
4th and 5th graders – Room 203



BIBLE STUDIES

Tuesday Morning Prayer Group: Each week we spend time in prayer for our congregation, our community and the world. All are welcome to join us! We meet on Tuesday mornings, 9:00 a.m. in the church parlor.

Theology on Tap: Join us on Monday, February 19th at 6pm at Travinia Italian Kitchen in the Willow Lawn Shopping Center. This year we are spending our time talking about where the rubber meets the road of our faith. We choose a current news headline and strive to understand how we, as Christians, can react faithfully and lovingly. We hope you will join us for great conversations and great drinks!

Men's Bible Study: This Bible study meets weekly at 7:00 a.m., every Thursday in Room 106. Come join us and start your day refreshed and focused. We finish in time for you to head off to work in plenty of time!

Women's Study Group: We meet on the first Monday of each month from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Ruth Anna Langdon's home (903 Regester Parkway – ½ block from the church). We invite women to join us as we continue our study of *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Montreat Women's Connection Retreat is returning this summer. Plan on joining us again August 10-12, 2018. More information to follow.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



We are busy planning and praying for VBS! Save the date **July 16- 20**. We will be *Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus*. This is going to be a fun, faith-filled week. Plan on bringing your children, grandchildren and friends' children! And plan on volunteering during this amazing week. Children must be 4 years old to participate. The cost is \$15/child with a \$30 family max.

CHURCH TRIP TO ISRAEL

We are planning an exciting trip for members and friends of Tuckahoe to visit the Holy Land, November 2-11, 2018. We will walk where Jesus walked, where Jesus taught, performed miracles, died and was resurrected. It will be an amazing faith formation time and a wonderful time to be with members of our church family.

The trip is \$2,979.99/person, which includes airfare. All are welcome on this trip, so if you have family or friends who would like to come, please let them know.

You can find more information at

<http://www.pilgrimtours.com/groups/tuckahoeisrael.htm>.

If you would like to reserve your spot, you can bring your check for \$300 and the registration form to church.

The registration deadline is July 1 and final payments must be made by August 31, 2018.



YOUTH MINISTRIES

Tuckahoe Youth Happenings

What a wonderful group of young people we have at Tuckahoe. Many of them come on Sunday evenings to learn, grow and have fun together. We play and we spend time doing things for others. Come join us Sunday nights to experience community that you cannot find anywhere else.

February 4	After Church	Knox Bowl - Bring a change of clothes to church and join us for lunch and our annual flag football game. It's a great time even if you're not a stellar athlete!
February 11	5:30 p.m.	Mission night—come join us as we think about mission and how we serve our Community.
February 16 – 18		Youth Group Mystery Trip No Youth Group on Sunday
February 25	5:30 p.m.	RE:FORM

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING, FEBRUARY 4TH

The Souper Bowl of Caring was originally founded by a church youth group. Even though the movement has since expanded from the faith community to many types of participating groups, it continues to be fueled by those coming together to worship and make a difference in their community. Since that day, more than \$115 million has been raised for local charities across the country through *The Souper Bowl of Caring*. Be part of this movement that is sharing God's

love with those in need. Please give generously on Super Bowl Sunday. Proceeds from this important fund raising effort will go to Lamb's Basket.



OUTREACH



WANTED: TPC TEAM TO BUILD RAMP FOR PROJECT HOMES

Interested in a One-Day, Local Outreach Project on February 24, 2018?

We need eight Tuckahoe volunteers to build a wheelchair ramp, under the guidance of a Project Homes supervisor. This 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. indoor project is done at PH's warehouse, and allows a ramp to be built to specs and stored until warmer weather. When it is put in place it allows a Richmond-area resident to stay in their home and come and go as needed – thanks to you!

This is a great way to chase away February cabin fever, as well as give back. One morning of your time will help another person move freely every day!

Contact Robins Buck at 804-314-4224 or trbuck1949@comcast.net to sign up.

LAMB'S BASKET CONTRIBUTIONS... THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

"...I was hungry and you fed me" Matthew 25: 35

Tuckahoe's LAMB's Basket food contribution for January was 118 pounds!

Do you know about LAMB'S Basket? Lamb's Basket provides food to needy families of Henrico County. Clients are referred by area churches and organizations such as Central Virginia Food Bank, Catholic Charities and Henrico County Social Services. Prior to 2002, many Lakeside area churches had small food pantries. When the pantry at Christ Lutheran Church began receiving referrals from Henrico County Social Services in 1999, demand quickly exceeded space. Pastor Eric Moehring coordinated an initiative among Lakeside area churches to form a larger food pantry in order to



meet the growing need more efficiently. After two years of planning and a generous grant from Overbrook Presbyterian Church, LAMB'S Basket opened in 2002 as a 501©(3) non-profit organization. The name is an acronym for Lakeside Area Ministries Board.

Food collection for LAMB'S Basket is an ongoing initiative of our Outreach Committee. We "officially" collect non-perishable foods every second Sunday of the month; but, feel free to bring food items at any time. They may be left in the wonderful, pull-out bin on the left side of the Resource Center between the narthex and Duntreath Hall.

Thank you for remembering the hungry in our community!



MISSION TRIP, 2018

Our 2018 Summer Mission Trip itinerary has been set. We'll connect with West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps and travel to the Lewisburg, WV area, leaving Sunday, July 1 and returning Saturday, July 7. We'll likely be

rebuilding in Greenbrier County, according to this Presbyterian-based ministry (WVMAW.org). Youth entering high school--and up--and all adults are invited to join in this terrific experience! Please contact Nancy Millsaps (nhmillsaps@gmail.com) if you are considering participating. A planning meeting will be held following worship on March 4th in the sanctuary.

Plan to be there if you are interested in this trip!

HAWKINS HOUSE THANK YOU!

It was awesome! A huge thank you to the congregation for their generosity to the men at Hawkins House. The men residing there were overcome with joy. Mike gave short speech of thanksgiving and appreciation. Eric sang a beautiful song he composed about getting on board with Jesus. The possibilities for better meals and nutrition are far reaching. Dennis, the house manager who does most of the cooking, would like instructions and recipes to make the most of the lovely gifts. Thank you to all who donated to the kitchen shower!

*With deep appreciation,
Stacey and Wendell*



KROGER REWARDS... HAVE YOU SIGNED UP?

For the third
quarter of 2017 our



Outreach ministries were the beneficiary of **\$358.70** in funds from the Kroger rewards program! And that is with only 43 families signed up! Think what we could do if more of you would sign up for this fabulous program that pays non-profits for shoppers spending \$\$ in their stores. If you haven't signed up yet, call the church office and Mary will help you with the registration. (This does NOT affect your fuel rewards you receive from shopping at Kroger.) If you have registered – a HUGE thank you for designating Tuckahoe as a recipient of your shopping rewards.

You can sign up at www.krogercommunityrewards.com. All you need is your Kroger rewards card number and our NPO number (86957).

OUTREACH

CHRISTMAS ELF PROJECT

For at least seven years members of our congregation have agreed to purchase Christmas gifts for children at Oak Grove – Bellemeade Elementary School, a City of Richmond School located south of the James River off Jeff Davis Highway. We ask our volunteers to provide two presents for each of two children and for the last three years we have welcomed twenty-five volunteers as Christmas Elves to serve fifty children. Many of our elves has served for several years. Twenty-four of our volunteers in 2017 were Elves in 2016 as well. Each year a majority of the parents of the children who receive the gifts provide a thank you note to our volunteers. I've included below three examples of notes we got this year:

a) I would like to say a gigantic thank you to Communities in Schools and all the wonderful people that made this happen for my babies. I am so grateful that you were willing to help us in this time of need. We really appreciate this. My heart overflows with joy that someone saw our need and was willing to help. I am so thankful. Happy Holiday.

b) Thank you so much for the great blessing to my children. Very thankful there are still giving people.

c) I wanted to take this time to express my gratitude for your extended kindness toward my daughter around this time of year. To see the smile on her face to know that someone cared enough to give from their heart to her. I can't thank you enough. Like I always say God is keeping a scrapbook and taking notice of people that are giving of their self in different ways. Thank you again and I hope that God returns it to you in an area of your life that there is a need as well. Wishing you and yours a happy holiday.

Dick Mateer, Coordinator



RISE AGAINST HUNGER SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2018 @ 9 A.M.

We are changing from an October date for this event to a March date. So, our 6th annual packaging event is fast approaching. Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 17th. This great morning, appropriate for ages 4 and up, will find you decked out in the finest of hairnets, standing elbow to elbow with your friends to measure, pour, weigh and assemble meals to be shipped to those in need in the poorest areas of our world.

Our goal this year is to package 12,000 meals, for which we need to raise \$3,500.

As you can tell, we will need many volunteers to package meals for shipment to places around the globe. Church members, family and friends, ages 4 and up, are welcome to participate in this fun-filled activity. If you are not able to participate in our packaging event you can still contribute to our efforts with a monetary donation. All donations go towards paying for the raw materials needed to go into the meals. Please consider volunteering to help support this worthwhile organization by either participating on March 17th or through a monetary donation. Stay tuned to future articles in *The Torch* to learn how to participate or donate. But mark your calendars now!!



FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

FEBRUARY'S LINEUP FOR WNS MENUS AND PROGRAMS

We resume our rotating program format in February. The first Wednesday of the month we will be inviting people to share their stories with us. People from our church family, our community and beyond will join us to share how their faith has shaped their life. The second Wednesday of the month we will share time together through games! Be on the lookout for the Newlywed Game, Jeopardy, board games...who knows what might crop up! The third Wednesday we will continue the conversation topic from Theology on Tap for that month. Don't worry if you come to both, our conversations will build on each other and grow deeper with each discussion! The last Wednesday of the month we will have time after dinner for extended fellowship. There is childcare available to all children who are not able to participate in bell practice.



<u>DATE</u>	<u>MENU</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
February 7	Cooking Team #5 will serve up smoked pulled pork, smoked brisket, coleslaw, baked beans, special sauce and dessert .	We will continue our monthly program of Sharing Our Story with special guest, <i>Dr. Roberta Damon</i> . Dr. Damon holds a doctorate in marriage and family counseling from SW Baptist Theological Seminary. She has served as a missionary in Brazil, a counselor at First Baptist Church in Richmond, and on staff at the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.
February 14	Cooking Team #6 is preparing a "Pancake Dinner" with sausage, bacon and scalloped apples and dessert.	Ash Wednesday Service for all ages. There will be no children's bell practice this night so that all can participate in the service.
February 21	Cooking Team #4 will finally get to hold the "Chili Cook-Off" that was cancelled in January. Come to sample 7 chili recipes and accompaniments of baked potato, corn bread and desserts.	The program is the "Chili Cook-Off". Take time to taste them all and cast your vote! Then compare notes on your favorites!
February 28	Cooking Team #7 brings a menu of BBQ, rolls, baked beans, potato salad, slaw and desserts.	We have an extra Sharing Our Story program this month with guest <i>Derek Maul</i> , an inspirational author who loves life, enjoys the daily adventure of responding to God's invitation, and is committed to living what Paul calls, "The life that is truly life".

AROUND THE CHURCH



Scholarships

THE WARINNER FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

It's time to consider applying for the Warinner Family Scholarship. Now in its fifth year, the Scholarship is in memory of long-time members Ned and Shirley Warinner and their daughter Susan Hogg. It provides up to \$1,500/year for up to 4 years. Recipients must be ages 18-24 and active in the life of Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church. Recipients must attend a 4-year college, graduate school, community college, junior college, or career education program.

The deadline to apply is February 28, 2018.

Application and related information is on the website (under the Learning/Youth Ministries tab) or contact Committee moderator Leslie Shimer at 804-301-4716 or leslieashimer@gmail.com).

STAYING CONNECTED, WITH A MINISTRY OF PRESENCE

I find that there are not enough hours in the day to keep in touch with all the people I care about. It is especially true of my work as Director of Visitation with the Deacons and Stephen Ministers. There are many people in our congregation that would benefit from visits and phone calls beyond what the Deacons, Stephen Ministers, or Patrick and I can do.

I'm dreaming of a group of people who would have one or two people that they will keep in touch with, develop a strong friendship with, and be a listening ear for, when needed. Maybe you don't have time to be a Deacon, or Stephen Minister because you lack the time for such a weighty commitment.

Maybe you have been a Deacon before and enjoyed it, or maybe you are hesitant to serve in that way, but you could be a Christian friend to one or two members.



The Ministry of Presence:
Time, Hospitality, Welcome

God created us to be in relationships. All good action starts with a single step. Please take this step and let me know if you might be interested in serving Tuckahoe and its members in this caring way.

Call or email me. (804)399-0081 or gspence@tuckahoepres.org.

Ginger Spence

AROUND THE CHURCH



OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHIES ARE OFFERED TO:

Gloria Morton and Kathy Comess and their families on the death of their son and brother, Richard Morton, on December 4, 2017.

The family of Joan Clement who died on December 10, 2017.

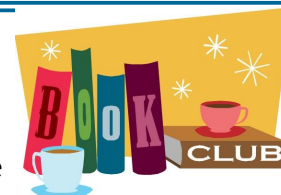
Fred and Becky Groves and their family on the death of his father, John Frederick Groves, Sr. on December 12, 2017 in North Carolina.

Tom Challoner, Kit and Spencer Crawford, and Rich and Terri Crawford on the death of Gladys Challoner on December 12, 2017.

The family of Kitsey Watkins who died on January 2, 2018.

TPC BOOK CLUB 2018

Avid reader? Please join our Tuckahoe Book Club throughout the year for a chance to gather and discuss this year's book selections. All are welcome! We meet on the last Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in various members' homes.



*Note the date change in May for Memorial Day.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>BOOK/AUTHOR</u>	<u>REVIEWER</u>	<u>HOSTESS</u>
2/26	<i>Truly Madly Guilty</i> by Liane Moriarty	Jackie Meyers	Terry Brady
3/26	<i>Don't Tell Me You're Afraid</i> By Guiseppe Catozzella	Pat Miller	Mickey Mateer
4/30	<i>Faithful</i> by Alice Hoffman	Kaye Keyes	Barbara Maiden
*5/21	<i>A Gentleman in Moscow</i> By Amor Towles	Gena Wallace	Dee Daughtrey
9/24	<i>The Nightingale</i> By Kristen Hannah	Camellia Wroniewicz	Kaye Keyes

AROUND THE CHURCH

DON'T FORGET YOUR CHANCE TO HOST FELLOWSHIP TIME!

The Fellowship Committee provides 52 opportunities to share fellowship with other Tuckahoe members in Duntreath each week. Take a look at the sign-up board on the Resource Center wall as you enter Duntreath hall from the Narthex and take advantage of this marvelous chance to interact with friends; make new ones; and welcome guests. Instructions may be found in the pantry, on our website under "Resources" or just ask Angie Meadows or Dianne St. John for more information. If there is a special event or activity you would like for us to consider, please contact Dianne St. John.



DINNER AND A MOVIE NIGHT

Join the Fellowship Committee on Saturday, February 24 for a fun evening of pizza, popcorn, beverages and a MOVIE!

The adults will watch *Hidden Figures* — a great film about three women in NASA in the 60's.

The children will be treated to *Despicable Me 3*.

You can sign up to attend on the event block on the TPC home page at www.tuckakhoepres.org.

Please let Dianne know if you can assist with food planning and set-up. Also, let us know if childcare is needed.

Contact Dianne St. John at 804-363-6658.



thank
you!

FROM OUR MEMBERS...

From Jan Stevens:

After 40 days in the hospital and rehab, I am so grateful to be home. Thank you to everyone at TPC for their prayers, caring thoughts and get-well cards. A special thanks to Bill and Jackie Stallings, who are the epitome of caring Christian friends, for their cards, gifts and many visits. Also to Pam Burch, my Deacon, for her phone calls, cards, food and visits. It is so comforting to know that others really care.

From Gail Miller:

The poinsettia is sitting in the sun room, a beautiful reminder of my Tuckahoe family. Thank you for your thoughtful gift.
In faith, Gail

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
LENTEN PRACTICES CALENDAR FOR FAMILIES 2018						
FEBRUARY 18 [P] Candle prayer. Light a candle and say "let us feel the light of God's love this Lent. Amen."	FEBRUARY 19 [S] Collect litter or trash around your house or neighborhood. Throw it away.	FEBRUARY 20 [F] Try spending some time in silence today. Start with five minutes.	FEBRUARY 21 [P] Kindness prayer: Close your eyes and think of someone you love. Imagine that person being full of God's love. After 30 seconds, open your eyes.	FEBRUARY 22 [S] Show gratitude to someone you love today by sending a text, writing a postcard, or giving a call.	FEBRUARY 23 [F] Try to walk or use public transportation instead of driving today.	FEBRUARY 24 [P] Say the Lord's Prayer together as a family.
FEBRUARY 25 [S] Do a job or chore someone else in your family usually does.	FEBRUARY 26 [F] Turn off all the lights during a time when they are normally on, such as a shower, bath, or mealtime.	FEBRUARY 27 [P] Gratitude prayer: "God thank you for _____, _____, and _____. Amen."	FEBRUARY 28 [S] Think of someone who has taught you something important. Say thank you to that person today.	MARCH 1 [F] Don't watch any TV or movies today.	MARCH 2 [P] Psalm 46 prayer: "God is gracious and slow to anger, rich in love and good to all. Amen."	MARCH 3 [S] Make a treat or gift for someone or a group of people. Plan to deliver it tomorrow.
MARCH 4 [S] Deliver the treat or gift you made yesterday.	MARCH 5 [P] Walking prayer: Take a nature walk and let your walk be your prayer. See God's beautiful creation.	MARCH 6 [F] Think of ways to conserve water or energy today.	MARCH 7 [P] Psalm 23 prayer: "God is like a shepherd who always takes care of the sheep. Amen."	MARCH 8 [F] Go to bed extra early today.	MARCH 9 [S] Call a relative and tell a joke or sing a silly song.	MARCH 10 [F] Think about what you can give up so you can spend more time with your family today.
MARCH 11 [P] Breath prayer: "I am breathing in God's love, I am breathing out fear."	MARCH 12 [S] Send a card to someone, or write a note.	MARCH 13 [F] Try to eat a vegetarian meal today.	MARCH 14 [P] Psalm 139 prayer: "Even darkness is not dark to God. Amen."	MARCH 15 [S] Learn a word in a language you don't speak to appreciate another culture.	MARCH 16 [F] Do not play with toys that have batteries or plug in.	MARCH 17 [P] Pray for someone who lives far away, even if you don't know that person.
MARCH 18 [S] Find 5 things in your house that can be given away.	MARCH 19 [F] Try using only one drinking glass for the whole day.	MARCH 20 [P] Coloring prayer: Draw or color a picture of your prayers to God.	MARCH 21 [S] Hold the door open for someone today.	MARCH 22 [F] Try not to complain about anyone or anything today.	MARCH 23 [P] Joys and concerns prayer: Share one reason you are joyful and one reason you are concerned. When all have shared, say "Amen."	MARCH 24 [S] Make a bird feeder to care for creation, or sprinkle cereal on the sidewalk.
MARCH 25 [S] Think of a way to be kind to a stranger today. Your kindness can be as simple as a smile.	MARCH 26 [F] Don't listen to music or the radio in the car today.	MARCH 27 [P] Evening prayer: "God thank you for the gift of this day. We pray for rest and sleep. Amen."	MARCH 28 [F] Wear plain clothes today with no added jewelry or other decorations.	MARCH 29 [P] Star prayer: Look at the stars and consider the vastness of the universe. Let your thoughts be the prayer.	MARCH 30 [F] Don't eat snacks between meals today.	MARCH 31 [S] Take food items you've been collecting to the food pantry or shelter.
APRIL 1 EASTER [P] Resurrection Prayer: "God thank you for the new life we see all around us! Amen."	Deepen your family's spiritual journey this Lent through simple activities. These daily suggestions offer unique ways to practice the three "pillars" of Lent: prayer[P], fasting[F] and almsgiving/service [S]. Traditionally fasting does not happen on Sundays, so practices are staggered accordingly.					

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TUCKAHOE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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TUCKAHOE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Sarah Dennis, Director of Christian Formation

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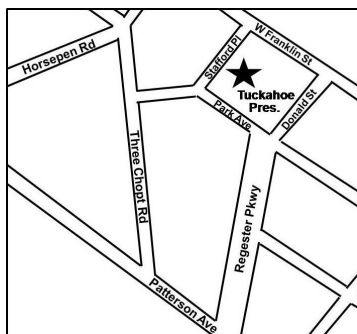
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OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

*Called by God, to be the heart,
voice, hands and feet
of Christ where
the Spirit leads us.*



The Torch is a monthly newsletter of
Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church.

Deadline is the 18th of each month.

Editor-Mary McGee; email: office@tuckahoepres.org