A Christlike Response to Violence

We live in violent times. This past month, the world was stunned as Christians in Sri Lanka were targeted as they arose to worship on Easter Sunday. The country’s defense minister issued a statement shortly afterward reporting that Islamic extremist groups had claimed that these bombings were in retaliation for the shootings at Mosques in Christchurch New Zealand in March. These are just the latest examples of the violence that continues around the world. How do we respond to such violence? It would be easy to respond with anger and an escalation of violence. Is there another way?

True peace must begin with an examination of our own hearts and motivations. We cannot hope to accomplish peace while we hold bitterness in our hearts against another. How then can we act justly while demonstrating the love and grace that we see in Christ?

Jesus didn’t leave the disciples without instruction on this issue. Not only did Jesus teach his disciples that they should be peacemakers (Mt 5:9), but he also provides the perfect example in his life as he turned the other cheek and endured the violence of the cross. The Bible makes it clear that justice is an inseparable companion of peace (Isaiah 32:17; James 3:18).

We hear the prophet’s call “let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!” (Amos 5:24)

Continued on page 2
Perfect peace with justice has only ever been fully met at the cross. Through the cross the punishment for human sin was fully absorbed in the divine love of Jesus.

He obediently endured the humiliation of the cross because he knew that God would accomplish a deep and lasting reconciliation with humanity through his death. Paul explains this reconciliation at the cross saying:

“For He himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility... His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility (Eph 4:14-16).”

For Christians the cross is the model of true reconciliation with one another. Rather than insisting on retribution, we are called to pursue love, forgiveness, and non-violence. The way to find peace is to conform to the image of the cross. As we pursue Christ’s peace with others we bear witness to the power of the cross to overcome the barriers of hostility, hate, and violence. We stand in the hope that through Christ all things can be made new.

Peace,

Pastor David

SHOP WITH SCRIP SUNDAY, MAY 5th!

Select scrip from the ever-growing list of vendors and be so happy knowing a portion of your purchase goes to benefit the church. Next opportunity not until mid-summer. Buy now!

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NEWS FROM THE CHAMPIONS

Spring is here and it’s time for the Second Annual Spring Performance. It will showcase the students’ progress in English, plus adult classical ballet numbers. The local community will be our audience and this is a great outreach to share our faith in action.

This season 4 teachers have left due to various reasons (maternity leave, new job/s, and our intern’s family health problems). We are hopeful that the new teachers will continue next year. The second round of English exams is complete and we now are registering students for the big annual Cambridge language exams in June. The success of our students greatly impacts our reputation as a quality school.

Please continue to pray for our students and their families. Developing relationships with our community has been so rewarding. We are helping people to know the Lord more deeply, introducing others to Christ and showing God’s love to all. What a blessing!

We have been praying about our future over the last several months and plan to move back to the U.S. this summer. We officially retire at the end of December. Connecting with our partner churches this fall is at the top end of our to-do list.

As always, we thank you for all the prayerful support and encouragement you have sent our way over the years of our Russia ministry.

How You Can Help: To donate to this ministry, make your check payable to the church and show TMS Global-Champions in the memo line.
Have You Connected With Us?
Stay in touch and keep up to date.
Email pictures/videos at events to: info@templecityumc.org and we can post them online.
Be sure to include a description!

Liturgists for May
5th - Susan Ross
12th - Connie Deacon
19th - Jennifer
26th - Sharon Smoron

Please contact the office ASAP if you need to reschedule so we can arrange coverage. Become a liturgist. Speak with one of the regulars or contact the office (626) 286-3129.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED
Be trained to use the audio/visual equipment for Sunday mornings.
See Pastor David if interested.

Choir Rehearsals
Thursdays at 7:30 pm in the Fireside Room.
Add your voice to worship.
Just speak with Clarissa.

Men’s Group
Thursdays at 9:00 am, and occasionally @ 11:30 am.
Fellowship, Special Programs and Outings
All are welcome.
See Ray Eckhardt.

Women’s Group
Eve Circle
The ladies are taking a little time off this month.
See Sharon Smoron for information about this fellowship.

National Day of Prayer
Come and join with other Christians from our area for a time of prayer for our nation. We will gather in front of the Gazebo in Temple City Park on May 2nd at 6pm. This will be a BYOLC event (Bring Your Own Lawn Chair).

Spring Sermon Series
“Life-Giving Change”
The disciples understood Jesus very differently after the resurrection. They realized that the Jesus they had known as their teacher and leader was indeed the messiah and the very Son of God. We will hear how the resurrection changed their understanding of Jesus, and how it provided them with the strength and encouragement to live faithfully as disciples. The resurrection of Jesus also provides insights into our lives as we face a variety of challenges. Knowing Jesus as the resurrected Lord inspires faith in disciples today for daily life and witness. The key verse for this series will be 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (Message Translation): Jesus included everyone in his death so that everyone could also be included in his life, a resurrection life, a far better life than people ever lived on their own.

GROWING IN FAITH
A Look into the Life of Simon Peter Begins April 30th
Join one of the weekly groups as we walk along with Simon Peter. We will grow in our faith as we learn from Peter’s example, experiences, temperament and how he became Peter, the rock, and foundation of our Faith. This DVD led study by Adam Hamilton’s 6-week study will be offered:
Tuesdays at 10:00am in the Fireside Room
Thursday at 9:00am (Men’s Group) in the Fireside Room
Saturdays at 10:30 am at Baldwin Gardens.
Looking for a different time? Ask Pastor David.
MOPS is Coming to Temple City

Our church will be starting a special outreach program for mothers of preschoolers in our community. What is MOPS?

Here’s the skinny: MOPS groups are gatherings of moms coming together for community, conversation and friendship. The goal of MOPS is to meet each mom where she is and walk beside her as she embarks upon the crazy and beautiful journey we call motherhood. Do you know any mothers who would be interested in participating in this new program? We are currently recruiting people to help get this started. For more information contact Fiona Reimers will be the leader for this new ministry.

Connecting with the Pastor & Church!

Hey everyone! You are invited to take a coffee (or tea) break with Pastor David. He is interested in catching up with you. Whether you have a deep question or just want to shoot the breeze, schedule your time by sending an email to: pastordavid@templecityumc.org.

Summer Camp registration is open!

Hey Kids! Don’t miss out on the chance of a lifetime to go to summer camp. Kids from 1st to 12th can go. Our camps are week long, overnight, Christian based camps where your child will engage in worship, small group activities, large group activities and games. They could also participate in activities, such as swimming, archery, ropes courses and many, many more. Information can be found at www.calpacumc.org/summercamp. At summer camp, your child will grow in their faith, learn leadership skills, grow their self-esteem, develop inter-personal skills with peers and adults, make life-long friendships and have fun.

SHARING GOD’S GIFTS

A healthy Stewardship is . . . .

Stewardship built on a response to God’s children for what God has given us.

God has blessed us with finances and resources unparalleled in the world. We only have to become aware of the rest of the world to know how blessed we are. It is from the abundance of God’s financial gifts to us that we commit our finances to the ministry of Jesus Christ. It is from this abundance that we care for God’s children.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March 2019</th>
<th>Year to Date 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income: $20,581</td>
<td>$53,072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses: $18,376</td>
<td>$53,422</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Your Finance Team

Children’s Sunday School

Kids are welcome to join in the fun and learning experiences of Sunday School. Another great month ahead. Look for more details about the coming programs. Classes begin right after Children’s Moments in worship and are held in the Education Building.

- Fiona Reimers & Wendie Pandolfi

Children & Youth Highlights

Youth are Invited!

Board Games, Fun, Singing, Foosball, Food & Drinks, Getting to Know God

Sundays @ 10:00 am

Life Groups

The best way to grow in faith is to connect with other believers in a caring supportive environment. Life Groups are a place to read the scriptures, ask questions, connect with other people, and give and receive spiritual support.
HEALTH MINISTRIES MOMENT

Does your phone ring continuously with opportunities to win mega bucks? Are you getting calls from the “IRS”? Here are some tips to protect you and your family or friends from common frauds. Security is part and parcel of the health of any individual and learning about resources available is important.

Crimes using the phone, internet and mail to defraud seniors have evolved into a global criminal threat, defrauding thousands of people around the world. These crimes may include investment fraud, mortgage fraud, lottery, work at home, “grandparent,” romance, internet dating scams and variations on Nigerian or 419 scams. Criminals use the internet, mail and telephone, offer free seminars and use television and radio ads to solicit potential victims. Don’t ever give out Social Security Numbers, bank account numbers, date of birth or pin numbers.

1. Beware of instructions to send money overseas to a foreign bank. As a rule, these types of requests are bogus.
2. Delete unsolicited emails that have attachments.
3. Be inspired by social media, but still do your homework.
4. Seek out any charity’s authorized website. Note that in the weeks following Katrina, the FBI identified 4,000 bogus sites which often asked for personal information. Charity Navigator is a good site to use and their experts have done the research for you.
5. Give through a reputable, secure service. The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is one that you can be assured of knowing 100% of donations goes to the charity with no overhead.

Be safe - Be informed - and Beware. God gives us choices and using the information available allows us to avoid common pitfalls of this kind.

- Marcia Galland, R.N., Faith Community Nurse

FROM THE AMOS TEAM

Ever wondered where we get our name? In Amos 7:12-14, the prophet Amos is told to no longer prophesy in the presence of the king because his visions of the destruction of Israel were - quite understandably - making people in power uncomfortable.

Amos responded that his job wasn’t to keep people comfortable, but to proclaim God’s word. He wasn’t anyone special or of particular political import: He was just a regular person whom God had called to use his voice to speak out against injustice.

As members of the Amos Team specifically, and followers of God generally, we recognize that we are all Amos in our own contexts. We are ordinary people who are called to use our voices, our resources, and our actions to remedy oppression, so that we can partner with God to, as Amos says, “Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”

With this in mind, we have recently developed the following mission statement: We are a team of First UMC congregants who are taking the homelessness situation seriously and are looking for solutions.

- Erin Grasse

MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE

Please keep bringing in non-perishable food items for El Monte Emergency Resources.

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.” (Matthew 25:35)

- Hilde Garrison

Prayer Meeting

Prayer is powerful and effective (James 5:16). Join us in the Pastor’s office the first Friday of the month for a special time of prayer for the church and the community. All are invited.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 28    | 10am - Worship @ S  
3pm - Food, Friends-Bible  
4pm - Food, Friends &  | 7pm - Church Council @ FS  | 10am - Life Group @  | 1pm - Oasis Talent Show @  | NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER  
9am - Men's Group @ FS  
6pm - National Day of  
7:30pm - Boy Scouts @ FH  
7:30pm - Choir Practice @  
8pm - Young Adults @  | 9am - Prayer/Care Group  
8pm - Youth Group @ Ed.  | 10am - Eng, Praise Team @  
10:30am - Life Group @  |
| 29    | 10am - Worship @ S  
3pm - Food, Friends-Bible  
4pm - Food, Friends &  | 10am - Life Group @  | 7pm - Eve Circle @ Home  | 9am - Men's Group @ FS  
7:30pm - Boy Scouts @ FH  
7:30pm - Choir Practice @  
8pm - Young Adults @  | 9am - Prayer/Care Group  
8pm - Youth Group @ Ed.  | 10am - Eng, Praise Team @  
10:30am - Life Group @  |
| 30    | 10am - Worship @ S  
3pm - Food, Friends-Bible  
4pm - Food, Friends &  | 10am - Life Group @  | 6pm - Girl Scouts #731 @  | 9am - Men's Group @ FS  
7:30pm - Boy Scouts @ FH  
7:30pm - Choir Practice @  
8pm - Young Adults @  | 10am - Prayer/Care Group  
8pm - Youth Group @ Ed.  | 10am - Eng, Praise Team @  
10:30am - Life Group @  |
| 31    | 10am - Worship @ S  
3pm - Food, Friends-Bible  
4pm - Food, Friends &  | 7pm - Relay for Life @ FS  | 10am - Life Group @  | 9am - Men's Group @ FS  
7:30pm - Boy Scouts @ FH  
7:30pm - Choir Practice @  
8pm - Young Adults @  | 10am - Prayer/Care Group  
8pm - Youth Group @ Ed.  | 10am - Eng, Praise Team @  
10:30am - Life Group @  |
| 1      | 10am - Worship @ S  
3pm - Food, Friends-Bible  
4pm - Food, Friends &  | 10am - Life Group @  | 9am - Men's Group @ FS  
7:30pm - Boy Scouts @ FH  
7:30pm - Choir Practice @  
8pm - Young Adults @  | 10am - Prayer/Care Group  
8pm - Youth Group @ Ed.  | 10am - Eng, Praise Team @  
10:30am - Life Group @  |