“THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

Monthly Newsletter
NOVEMBER 2025

When all the prisoners of the land are crushed underfoot, when human rights are perverted in the presence of the Most High, when one’s case is subverted—does the Lord not see it?
Lamentations 3:34-36

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

6 – Antonio Garcia
10 – Lillian Nwosu

PASTOR’S MESSAGE:

The following is an article from the Presbytery of the Coastlands weekly newsletter dated October 23, 2025. Please consider this before voting on November 4.

Call to Action: Fundamental Rights and Kingdom Shalom

In the past few months, our current administration has repeatedly violated the fundamental rights (i.e., due process, speech, assembly, conscience, etc.) of American citizens and non-citizens, all while expanding the reach of executive power. The infringement of rights, manipulation of law, and the dangerous expansion of executive power are threats to a just social order and communal peace.

The ongoing assault is not evenly distributed. Our Latinx members, friends, and neighbors are racially profiled and cruelly denied their rights to due process and freedom from arbitrary search and seizure. Many have been detained in facilities that lack basic necessities and are intentionally denied access to appropriate legal counsel. Others have been unlawfully deported and imprisoned in other countries. Academic institutions have been targeted by crackdowns on free speech and denied freedom of assembly and protest. Public servants have been arbitrarily fired for their political views or for lawfully doing their jobs. The result is a concerted effort to penalize persons in a manner and magnitude that violates the democratic norms we as Presbyterians hold dear in church life and in politics. It undermines the shalom we are called to promote.

Civil rights are fundamental to citizenship and protecting them promotes the dignity and sacred value of all people. Just rule guarantees and promotes freedoms for all citizens and is an essential part of this-worldly shalom. Fundamental rights serve as a witness to the fullness of life we anticipate from Christ’s return. In 2002, the General Assembly explicitly drew a connection between fundamental rights and the dignity humans carry by virtue of their sacred value. In the *Resolution on Restoring Justice* we determined, “Our contemporary conceptions of equality and human rights are deeply indebted to biblical affirmations of the inherent worth of every human being as a person created in the divine image and due unmerited regard or respect”.

The Church is called to be a prophetic witness and to advocate for *shalom* (peace). As followers of Jesus Christ and members of the Presbyterian Church (USA), we are called to promote *shalom* in our nation and our communities. Shalom, as it comes to us from the biblical witness, is more than the absence of conflict, strife, or violence. Rather, it is the wholeness, justice, and social healing that God bestowed upon the world at creation and to which God promises to usher in the final reconciliation of all things. It is the Church's responsibility to continually reaffirm this commitment to equality and dignity.

Action Call

In response, the PC(USA) calls upon our political leaders to protect the rights of all persons and organizations. This includes the right to due process, protected free speech, freedom from discrimination, and protection from unreasonable search and seizure.

We call upon you, the Church, to:

1. Lament the harm and degradation against our neighbors and communities and to organize in communities across the country to provide assistance to those impacted.
2. Educate community members on their rights (e.g. rights of immigrants and protesters) and to demand accountability from elected leaders.
3. Contact your local and national officials to decry the threats to fundamental freedoms and to urge them to secure the rights and dignity of citizens and non-citizens alike.
4. Demand accountability hearings from Administration officials responsible for ongoing violations of human rights.

We have a Christian responsibility to advocate for justice and to lift a prophetic voice for the victimized and marginalized. Jesus calls us to love our neighbors, ensure that all persons in our communities are treated fairly, and honor the image of God we see in one another [Gen. 1:26-27].

SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS:

DATE	*ELDER-IN-CHARGE	*LAY LEADER	COMMUNION
November 2	Carol Gordon	Cynthia Manno	Carol & Cynthia
November 9	Karen Brelowski	Lynn Bailey	
November 16	Lois Tangowski	Kathy Kreie	
November 23	Kathy Kreie	Lisa Heims	
November 30	Irene Schoenwalder	Karen Brelowski	
December 7	Kathy Kreie	Irene Schoenwalder	Kathy & Irene
December 14	Marty Lindner	Bruce Tangowski	
December 21	Linda Zehner	Vyonnia Thompson	
December 28	Janet Sangekar	Diane Smith	

* If you are unable to be Elder-in-Charge or Lay Leader for your assigned Sunday, please switch with someone and inform Pastor Ron. If you switch a month or more in advance, please also contact Cecelia, so the Sunday assignments can be listed correctly in the following month's newsletter. Please give yourself enough time to set up prior to worship, 30 minutes is suggested.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS: Be sure to turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday night, **November 1, 2025**.

BIBLE STUDY: Join us on **Wednesdays** at noon, as we have started a new Bible Study called "Rahab, Hagar & Naomi".

COFFEE HOUR: Volunteers are needed to bring baked goods for Coffee Hour on Sunday mornings after worship. There is a sign-up sheet in the kitchen. If you have any questions, you may contact Linda Zehner.

November 2 - Cecelia Harrison	December 7 – Elaine J. Brooks
November 9 - Pastor Ron	December 14 – Pastor Ron
November 16 – Karen Brelowski	December 21 –
November 23 - Cynthia Manno	December 28 –
November 30 – Linda Zehner	

SESSION WORKS "Session Works" is a monthly communication of significant decisions made by Townley Session. From **October's** meeting, the following items were approved / discussed:

- ✓ Hosting a Community Dinner for our self-help groups
- ✓ Nominating Committee to begin new Clerk of Session search
- ✓ Review video on Hospitality
- ✓ Session to meet via Zoom on a regular basis, in person meetings will be scheduled as needed

Please note that you do not have to be on Session to work on a committee. Your talents are always welcome!

Clothing Distribution: ***The Blessing Room*** is open to Union County residents **who are in need** of essential items. Patrons should park in the rear lot and enter through the rear door. We will have clothing and household items available for distribution at no cost. Patrons should bring proof of residence and bag(s) to carry out their items.

The Blessing Room will be open on the **1st Saturday of each month** from 9 am to 11 am. in the Chapel Basement. Set up and last-minute sorting will start at 8:00 am. Donations and volunteers will continue to be needed. Upcoming distribution dates are **November 1st** and **December 6th.**

SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ: Presents Robert Hill Band on **Saturday, November 8, 2025**. Doors open at 7:30 pm, the show starts at 8:00 pm. Admission is $20, Students $15 and includes show, snacks, non-alcoholic beverages, and dessert. Show proceeds this year will benefit "Groundwork Elizabeth" – which is devoted to transforming the natural and built environment of low-resource communities. As always, the Salem Roadhouse Café is lively, intimate, up front, and personal. All ages are welcome. See attached flier.

NURSING HOME VISITATION: Our nursing home ministry is held at AristaCare, located at 400 W. Stimpson Avenue in Linden every **second Sunday** at 2:00pm each month. Please see Pastor Ron if you are interested in being a part of this ministry.

THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY: The next meeting of the Presbytery is scheduled for **Saturday, November 15, 2025,** at 9:30 – 11:30am in person. Website: https://pnenj.org

SESSION MEETING: The next Session meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 19, 2025,** at 7:30 pm via Zoom. (Session meetings are usually held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.)

UNION COUNTY INTERFAITH – DAY OF PRAYER: The annual Interfaith Celebration of Community which is being presented by the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council for a Day of Prayer will be on **Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at 7:00 pm**. This year it is being held at Calvary Lutheran Church located at 108 Eastman Street, Cranford, NJ 07019.

CHRISTMAS "SOUNDS OF THE SEASON": Mark your calendar for this special musical Christmas show on **Saturday, December 6** at 7:00 pm. Proceeds will go towards Townley's Blessing Room. See attached flier.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: SAVE THE DATE! This year's Christmas Party will be held on **Saturday, December 13, 2025**. See the attached flier!

PLEASE REMEMBER THE CONNECTICUT FARMS FOOD PANTRY. You are encouraged to support this ministry with a monthly donation of $4.00 (just $1.00 a week). The food bank prefers a monetary donation so they can purchase what is needed.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: If you have any items you would like to have included in **December's** (monthly) newsletter, please e-mail them to CeceliaH@comcast.net.

GIVING TO TOWNLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: You can also support our church using your credit or debit card by using this QR Code or by clicking the "Give Now" button on our church website at www.townleychurch.org.

WE HAVE A FACEBOOK PAGE! "Like" our Facebook page (http://www.facebook.com/TownleyChurch) to get the latest updates on your wall. Share your Townley comments, photos, and videos. If you want pictures added or notices posted, please send an email to the church office (townleychurch@yahoo.com). Away or missed a service? Catch our Livestream!

COMMUNITY NEWS

UNION'S GOT TALENT'S 2025 SHOW: A fundraising event for the Union High School Performing Arts Company and the Douglas Michael Krueger Scholarship Fund. This year, the show will be held at the brand-new DMK Black Box Theater in the Union Arts Center on ***Saturday, November 15.*** The competition will take place at 2 p.m., featuring the talents of anyone under 18. At 7:30 p.m., the theater will be transformed into a cabaret, with other talented performers. The DMK Scholarship provides over $3,500 in cultural arts scholarships each year to graduating Union High School students, the Papermill Playhouse, and awards grants to cultural arts programs around town.

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE - will be featuring Disney's Frozen from **November 26, 2025, through January 4, 2026**. Disney's Frozen transforms the magic of the beloved animated film to the stage in an enchanting adventure. When sisters Elsa and Anna are torn apart by a mysterious secret power, they each set out on their own journey of courage, self-acceptance, and a discovery of love in all its forms.