

“THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

Monthly Newsletter

APRIL 2020 / ISSUE 27

PASTOR’S MESSAGE:

WHAT’S GOING ON?

These are anxious times! But Scripture tell us: ***“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”***. (Philippians 4:6-7). Let’s do this, let’s pray:

Dear Lord,

We know that you are with us. We seek your protection and your discernment on how we best can love our neighbors. We admit that this COVID-19 outbreak can cause fear and anxiety. Prepare us, in every situation, that we may be grounded in your peace. We step forward with in unwavering faith, in your precious name. Amen.

Our Communications Strategy During Covid-19

- Text Messaging/Broadcasting:

These services offer us the opportunity the quick and convenient option of contacting our members with short messages of essential information during routine and crisis situations. Its limitations are not everyone has a cell phone (not effective with landlines) and not everyone will acknowledge they have received a text.

- Social Media Networking Communications:

Social media can be used during times like these to post communications, sharing information, download resources, update news, and share pictures/video of developing events. Townley has a Facebook Page and a Website that enables transmission of this information. We are also connected by Zoom, a video/audio conferencing service. This allows us to conduct remote meetings, group studies and even “coffee hours”.

- Call-Down Procedure (Phone Tree):

Session members have been assigned congregation members and are making regular contact with them. The pastor is also making random calls. This should become a habit with all of us, make an occasion call to just say hello.

CHOICES YOU CAN MAKE TO STAY EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY

It's natural to experience stress and anxiety in the face of a threat we cannot control. Because every person reacts differently, notice what your body and emotions are telling you:

- Listen to your emotions, noticing any anxiety, sadness, anger, or detachment.
- Listen to your body, noticing any change in appetite, new aches and pains, or feeling particularly hot or cool; and,
- When you notice troubling symptoms, pause to care for your body and mind. If you become unable to manage or function well, seek the assistance of a professional.

Embrace Best Health Practices

Though there's much about the COVID-19 outbreak over which you have no control, you can choose to embrace the kinds of practices that will keep you and your loved ones safe. The Center for Disease Control suggests:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



WE CONTINUE TO OPERATE

YOUR OFFERINGS CONTINUE TO BE ACCEPTED AND NEEDED. COVID-19 IS GREATLY IMPACTING OUR COMMUNITIES AS WE SEEK TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE LEAST OF THESE. MAIL YOUR OFFERING TO THE CHURCH OFFICE OR CONSIDER SIGNING UP WITH BILL PAY THROUGH YOUR BANK.

“TIME FOR PRAYER”: Join Pastor Ron and other Townley members in a teleconference on Monday evenings at 5:00 pm (approximately 20 minutes). All may call in to pray and/or make prayer requests. Dial-in using your phone: 1-717-275-8940 Access Code: 367 0530

BIBLE STUDY: Join us in this Lenten Devotional through the Matthew 25 focus on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm.

Join Zoom Meeting Online: <https://zoom.us/j/729922639?pwd=OGLqS1gwZ0wyUnhCc25haDhBd0xhZz09>

Or by phone: 1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 729 922 639

Password: 666888

SUNDAY SERVICE: Please join us for 10:00 am service on Townley Church’s Facebook page. Pastor will email the Sunday bulletin ahead of time. Immediately following service, please then join us for fellowship on Zoom at 10:35 am:

Join Zoom Meeting Online: <https://zoom.us/j/108162040>

Or by phone: 1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 108 162 040

LAY LEADERS FOR APRIL: Pastor Ron may be asking assigned Lay Leaders for their assistance with the Facebook or Zoom Sunday services.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LAY LEADER</u>
April 5	Irene Schoenwalder
April 12	Bruce Tangowski
April 19	Janet Sangekar
April 26	Kathy Kreie

REFORMED THEOLOGY WEBINARS: Need a reminder about some of the basics of Reformed Theology or want to be introduced to what it means to be a part of the “Reformed Christian tradition”? Dr. Cynthia Rigby of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary recently offered an hour-long webinar on this topic. The recorded version is now available online at <https://apcenet.org/project/basics-of-reformed-theology/>. Sponsored by the PC(USA) Office of Christian Formation and the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators, this webinar is a part of a series on Reformed Theology.

LET'S KEEP IN CONTACT: Session members have been charged with contacting members periodically during this time just to make sure everyone is okay. You are encouraged to contact your session member and others as well. This is for two-way communication. It's important we keep the channels of communications open during this time. Stay safe!

PALM SUNDAY: Please join in at 9:55 am on Zoom for service (see information above). Palms will not be distributed at this time. Since this is also the first Sunday of the month, an alternate communion celebration is being considered.

EASTER SUNDAY: Stay tuned while a decision regarding worship service is being made.

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE: The rummage sale has been postponed with details to follow.

TENTATIVE - FAMILY AND FRIENDS DAY – will be held on Sunday, June 7.

TOWNLEY'S 80TH ANNIVERSARY – will be celebrated on Sunday, November 8. (*Our actual inception date is November 3, 1940.*)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: If you have any items that you would like to have included in May's (monthly) newsletter, please e-mail them to CeceliaH@comcast.net. Please include your name. I hope to hear from you! Cecelia

WHAT TO DO – WHEN YOU NEED TO STAY HOME:

CBS - 100 things to do while stuck inside due to a pandemic:

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/life/health-wellness/2020/03/16/coronavirus-quarantine-100-things-do-while-trapped-inside/5054632002/>

Prayer for a Pandemic

Author Unknown

May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
Remember those who are most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home
Respect and support those who must choose between
Preserving their health or paying their rent.

May we who have flexibility to care for our children
When their schools close
Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those who have no place to go.

May we who are losing on our investments,
Remember those who have no money to invest.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.

During this time, when we cannot physically wrap our arms
Around each other, let us each find ways to be the loving
Embrace of humanity to our neighbors.

Be aware. Be accepting. Be supportive. Be kind.

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