

# “THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

*Monthly Newsletter*

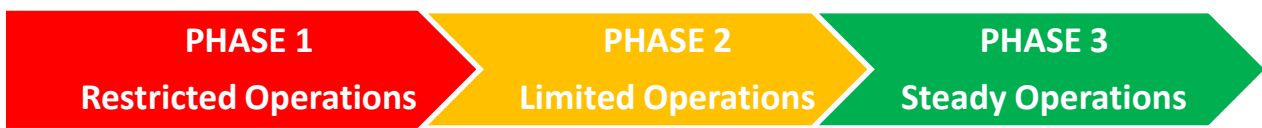
**APRIL 2021**

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

3 Lois Tangowski  
9 Carole Gordon  
16 Linda Catalano  
28 Irene Schoenwalder

**PASTOR’S MESSAGE:**

**Church Opening Status**



	PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3
Worship Services	Online	Online/In Person	In Person/Online
Session	Online	Online/In Person	In Person
Building/CommGrps	CLOSED	Limited	Open w/permission
Other activities	Suspended	Suspended	Allowed
Staff	Remote	Onsite	Onsite
Vulnerable	Online	Online	In Person/Online

Just over a year ago, we entered Phase 1 closing our doors to in person worship services and meetings due to COVID-19. All worship services were recorded for later viewing on Facebook and Fellowship Time was conducted on Zoom. In early July 2020, we entered Phase 2 allowing a small worship team to assemble and record worship services onsite for viewing online via Facebook. Fellowship Time continued on Zoom. During Phase 2, improved technology enabled livestreaming of our worship service.

Based upon a plateauing of new cases of Covid-19 within our region and a significant number of our congregation having vaccinated with the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> doses of the available vaccines, it was decided in March meeting of Session to reopen our doors – effective March 28 Palm Sunday. This decision takes into consideration the health of our congregants and the necessary safeguards that must be adhere to in keeping them safe. To accomplish this, the following guidelines are essential:

**STAY HOME IF:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•You have a temperature of 100.4 or higher.</li> <li>•You have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or COVID-19 symptoms.</li> <li>•You are in a Vulnerable group - not vaccinated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•You have other symptoms of illness: Cough - Chills - Sore throat Fever - Muscle pain - Loss of taste or smell Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing</li> </ul>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**WHEN COMING TO CHURCH:**

- Take your temperature before coming to church to ensure it is below 100
- Wear a mask covering your nose and mouth.
- Use the hand sanitizer in the dispensers on the way in and out of church.
- Practice good social distancing by staying at least 6 feet apart.
- Sit only with your cohabitating family/friends in marked pews.
- WAVE. Do NOT shake hands or hug.
- Use a tissue if you cough or sneeze.
- Wash your hands frequently.
- All surfaces will be sanitized before and after worship.
- Offering plates will be available at all sanctuary exits.
- All words for hymns and readings will be printed
- No food or beverage will be served in Fellowship Hall – for now.

While we are not “out of the woods” yet, there is hope that with the increasing rate of vaccinations and our continued vigilance in following safe practices we can once again enjoy the physical presence of one another. Please understand that our worship services will continue to be livestreamed for those unable to attend in person.

*Pastor Ron*

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**

Something different for this year. Let’s attend a service, hosted by the [Presbyterian Association of Musicians](#) (PAM) and organized by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s [Office of Theology & Worship](#). It will take place at **4 p.m.** and there are several ways to attend:

- To register for the Good Friday service via Zoom, [click here](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YOu5-tqnTx6vo3MAIM1oQQ).  
[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_YOu5-tqnTx6vo3MAIM1oQQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YOu5-tqnTx6vo3MAIM1oQQ)
- The service will also be livestreamed on the Presbyterian Association of Musicians’ [Facebook page](#).
- Or watch with Pastor Ron in the Fellowship Hall.



Hope you will join us Easter Sunday at Townley Church for our in-person service at 10am (with masks and social distancing observed). All are welcome. Service will also be live on Townley Church Facebook page for those unable to attend in person. Immediately following service there will be an outdoor (weather permitting) Easter Bunny photo experience with small gifts for children. Bring your camera.

## THE EASTER BUNNY???? - from Lisa Heims

Don't we often wonder how the Easter bunny got associated with Easter? Why Eggs? Why Lilies?



There are many versions and opinions...Is the Easter bunny a secular attempt to distract people from the true meaning of Easter? Or are there Christian symbols embedded in this seemingly weird twist on the holiday? Because nowhere in the Bible does a rabbit of any sort appear in the Easter narrative.

One version is that the Easter bunny first arrived in America in the 1700's with German immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania and transported their tradition of an egg-laying hare called "Osterhase". Their children made nests in which this creature could lay its colored eggs and over years those nests evolved into baskets... The rabbit or hare was associated with fertility, abundant new life and spring...but an egg laying rabbit? Why not an Easter chicken? Some say the Easter eggs represent Jesus' emergence from the tomb and resurrection...and the Easter egg rolling custom symbolizes the rolling away of the stone from Jesus' tomb...some view the hatching chicks as symbols of the new life Jesus promises his followers. In comparison the Easter lily is a relatively new tradition, first brought to the United States in 1882 from Bermuda...the large, pure white blossoms remind Christians of the pure, new life that comes through the Resurrection of Jesus...

We know that God can use things and people to get our attention. And maybe, just maybe, these sights and sounds of Spring and of Easter will cause you to reflect on the life-giving power of God, through Christ. Happy Easter!

### **Definition Of Ruling Elder From The Book Of Order (G-2.0301)**

"As there were in Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in discernment of God's Spirit and governance of God's people. Accordingly, congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling elders are so named not because they "lord it over" the congregation (Matt. 20:25), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. Ruling elders, together with ministers of word and sacrament, exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships."

**2021 SESSION LEADERS AND COMMITTEES: TOWNLEY TASK FORCES**

<b><u>SUPPORT</u></b>	<b><u>PROGRAM</u></b>	<b><u>VOCATION</u></b>
Buildings & Grounds	Congregational Care	Worship
Finances & Budget	Evangelism	Music
Personnel	Fellowship	Leadership Development
Rentals (leases	Mission/Outreach	Christian Education:
	Roadhouse	Bible Study, Confirmation Classes,
	Media Outreach	Prayer Group, Sunday School, Youth
	(Advertising, Facebook, Newsletter, Webpage)	Activities, etc.)
*Stewardship	*Stewardship	*Stewardship

**\* Stewardship is shared by all three task forces.**

**SESSION LEADERS (RULING ELDERS):**

Chair: Janet Sangekar  
Feret Fenelus

Chair: June Donohue  
Cecelia Harrison  
Lisa Heims  
Lois Tangowski  
Linda Zehner

Co-Chairs: Lynn Bailey &  
Diane Smith

Non-Session Members:  
Kathy Kreie -  
*(Financial Secretary)*  
Irene Schoenwalder -  
*(Will lead Buildings & Grounds)*  
Glen Zehner

Non-Session Members:

Non-Session Members:  
William Jensen  
Cynthia Manno  
Bruce Tangowski  
Vyonna Thompson

**NEW NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE** – from choir (1): Cynthia Manno; from congregation (2): Maryann Cove and Kathie Kreie; from session (2): Lisa Heims and Lois Tangowski.

**WORSHIP TEAM:** A worship team consisting of the Pastor, Music Director, Lay Leader, Elder-in-Charge, Song Leader, and Sound/video Technicians will continue to meet at the church on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am to livestream our worship services. This worship team follows all safety precautions. Please contact Pastor Ron if you would like to be a part of this team.

**SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS FOR APRIL:** Pastor Ron is asking those assigned for their assistance, if you are not considered high risk, as we resume our in-person worship services. **Please arrive by 9:30.**

<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>ELDER-IN-CHARGE</u></b>	<b><u>LAY LEADER</u></b>
APRIL 4	Carol Gordon	Vyonna Thompson
APRIL; 11	Janet Sangekar	Feret Fenelus
APRIL 18	Lisa Heims	Cecelia Harrison
APRIL 25	Linda Zehner	Carruthers Tumfour
MAY 2	Carruthers Tumfour	Maryanne Cove



**“TIME FOR PRAYER”**: We are praying by teleconference on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm. All may call in to pray and/or make prayer requests: Dial-in using your phone: 1 717-275-8940. Access code: 367 0530

**MISSION**: June D. asks everyone to please remember the Connecticut Farms Food Pantry. While donations of non-perishable items can be accepted on Sunday mornings at 11:00AM, you are encouraged to support this ministry with a monthly monetary donation of \$4.00— a dollar a week can bring food to an empty pantry. Please mail it to Townley Church for distribution.



Additional mission project: We will be providing socks (and winter socks, gloves and hats in the fall) to the homeless. Those who wish to participate are asked to purchase these items and place them in the outside container by the church office doors (near our 9/11 garden). The items will be given to Operation Warm Heart for distribution to the homeless. As of March 17, 2021 we had 14 personal care packs that were collected and delivered.

**MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT DATED MARCH 17, 2021**: We collected \$207.00 which was forwarded to Connecticut Farms Food Pantry. This is an ongoing mission. June Donohue

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING (MISSION)**: For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) has provided Presbyterians a way to share God’s love with our neighbors around the world. Three programs supported by OGHS—Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self Development of People—work to serve individuals and communities in needs. These programs provide relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the oppressed. If you wish to contribute to the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering, please send your contribution to Townley Church by Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021. Thank you!!!

*“Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could.”*  
— St. Gregory Nazianzen

**PER CAPITA**: As you know, every December the Board of Trustees of the Presbytery of Elizabeth presents the Presbytery’s budget for the coming year. The budget includes Per Capita received from its congregations. This money is used to develop programs, such as training for congregations and its leaders and supporting the work of Commission on Ministry. The complete budget can be viewed on the Presbytery website. ***The Per Capita for 2021 for Townley is \$45.00 per member (same as last year)***. Please submit your check for this amount as soon as you are able, payable to Townley Presbyterian Church.

You can also pay your per capita from the Townley website, Townleychurch.org. Click on the “give now” button found on the home page of the website. It is not necessary to log in. You will see the per capita button under donations. Enter the amount and continue to the next page. Once submitted, you and Townley will receive an email confirmation.

We look forward to your participation in per capita giving, an expression of your commitment to ministry both within our congregation and beyond. Thank you. Janet, Church Treasurer

### **A NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER**

Your Session sincerely appreciates how you have continued to let giving complete your lives.

Please continue to **mail your weekly offerings** to the church office. **Bill Pay and other online banking** options should also be considered. Online contributions may also be made through our church’s website “**Give Now**” button:



Our church’s Donation Page can also be reached using the **Quick Response (QR) Code** below. A QR Code is a two-dimensional, modular barcode that, when scanned by a smart phone (most phones use the camera to do this) will connect you to our Donation Page.



**RUMMAGE SALE:** The spring rummage sale has been postponed to the fall due to the pandemic.

**NEW STAFF MEMBER:** Effective 4/1/2021 Glen Zehner will be our part-time Sexton.

**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](mailto:CeceliaH@comcast.net).

**TOWNLEY BOOK CLUB:** Our next book is *Ma William and Her Circle of Friends* by Giftus R. John (who lives in Union, NJ). Thank you Janet Sangekar for the suggestion. **We will discuss it on Monday, April 12, 2021 at 7:30 pm and have the AUTHOR join us at 8:15 pm via Zoom.** As you read, please make note of any questions you would like to ask the author during our Zoom. This book doesn't have any specific book discussion questions, so at 7:30 pm we will discuss the book in general and try to come up with additional questions and comments to discuss with the author, when he comes on to join us at 8:15 pm. The book may be purchased directly from the author (\$15.00) by sending an email to: [giftusjay@msn.com](mailto:giftusjay@msn.com) It is also available through Amazon and Barnes & Noble (\$9.49-\$15.95 for both websites). Cecelia Harrison



**THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTH EAST NEW JERSEY:** The first meeting was held on March 13, 2021 online. The Vision Team elected its 12 members – our Rev. Ron Thompson is one of them. The next Stated Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 8, 2021 via Zoom. The legal address of our new Presbytery is 340 West Passaic Street, 3rd Floor, Rochelle Park, New Jersey 07662. Sign up by Subscribing on (temporary?) website <https://pnenj.org/> to receive news and updates.



**UPCOMING PCUSA WEBINAR - DISCOVERING OUR GIFTS:** God has gifted each of us with a variety of skills, interests, and talents. As those called to leadership in the church, particularly to the ministries of ruling elder and deacon, many of those gifts are called upon in a variety of ways. Take time to explore and discover your own talents, how they can be used to form effective teams, and ways that we work together in community as God's children. This Year of Leader Formation webinar is on **April 14, 2021 at 7-8:30 pm (eastern time)**, you can expect to search within yourself while also being introduced to some tools to use in your own congregation. The webinar will be recorded for viewing at a later time. Register at: <https://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/leadership-formation-ruling-elders-deacons/year-leader-formation-webinars/>



**Regarding Ruling Elders: A Monthly Series for Serving Faithfully**

***Leaders Lean In by Rodger Nishioka – March 15, 2021***

I was privileged to be serving on the faculty of Columbia Theological Seminary when the Rev. Dr. Laura Mendenhall was called to be our ninth president. In her first official meeting with the faculty, she described her leadership style. She explained she sees conflict as something that naturally occurs among people who are thoughtful and passionate. Over the years, she has discovered that when it comes to conflict, her tendency is to lean in. She is intrigued when others disagree with her, and she seeks

to better understand the other's perspective. She leans in, not because she's trying to convince them to agree with her, but because she is worried she's missing something, that she is not seeing something they see. In broadening her perspective, she becomes a better leader, a better pastor, and ultimately a more faithful follower of Jesus.

Over the years, I watched her do this. When conflict arose, she approached the person and asked to meet with them on their timeline and in their preferred space. I learned much from her.

Conflict is inevitable. The best leaders do not run away from conflict; rather they accept it and seek to understand and learn from it. Mendenhall was clear about the power imbalance. She was the president, after all. But she brought such humility and a remarkable non-anxious presence to each conflict that people felt heard and respected, even when the result was to "agree to disagree."

Jesus leaned in. Whether the conflict was with his disciples or the scribes or the Pharisees, he leaned in.

When I am in conflict with another person, I have learned to use the language of "please help me understand" as in "please help me understand how you see this differently" or "please help me understand how I have disappointed you." To be clear, I do not like conflict. As an Asian American, much of my cultural heritage teaches me to avoid conflict to save face. But being called to lead means we need to be about healthy ways of loving one another in order for the body of Christ to grow and thrive.

In the midst of conflict, leaders lean in.

---

*Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka serves as the senior associate pastor and director of adult faith formation at Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, Kansas. Prior to joining the staff at Village Church, he served as a professor of Christian education at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia.*

This article is the third in a 12-part series focusing on PC(USA) leader formation as a part of the Year of Leader Formation: Investing in Ruling Elders and Deacons. Additional resources are available at [www.pcusa.org/leader-formation/](http://www.pcusa.org/leader-formation/).

**Townley Presbyterian Church 829 Salem Road, Union, NJ 07083 Office: (908) 686-1028**  
**Email: [TownleyChurch@yahoo.com](mailto:TownleyChurch@yahoo.com) Website: [TownleyChurch.org](http://TownleyChurch.org)**  
**Facebook: Like us on "Townley Church"**