

“THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

Monthly Newsletter
APRIL 2022

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

3 Lois Tangowski
9 Carol Gordon
28 Irene Schoenwalder

PASTOR’S MESSAGE:

AMAZING GRACE

The hymn 'Amazing Grace' is a favorite for many people. The lyrics remind us that because of Jesus, none of us are ever lost because God is with us always. The hymn is John Newton’s own heartfelt expression of gratitude to God, who helped him turn from his profane and wicked life and eventually fight against the ills he practiced. Later in life, Newton became a supporter and inspiration to William Wilberforce who led the fight to pass the British Slave Trade Act in 1807, which abolished the slave trade in that empire.

John Newton’s “come to Jesus moment” occurred aboard a ship that had been thrashing about in a north Atlantic storm for over a week. Its canvas sails were ripped, and the wood on one side of the ship had been torn away and splintered. The sailors had little hope of survival. On the eleventh day of the storm, Newton was too exhausted to pump water, so he was tied to the helm and tried to hold the ship to its course. From one o'clock until midnight he was at the helm.

With the storm raging fiercely, Newton had time to think. His life seemed as ruined and wrecked as the battered ship he was trying to steer through the storm. Since the age of eleven, he had lived a life at sea. Sailors were not noted for the refinement of their manners, but Newton had a reputation for profanity, coarseness, and debauchery which even shocked many a sailor. He had rejected his mother's teachings and had led other sailors into unbelief. Certainly, he was beyond hope and beyond saving, even if the Scriptures were true. Yet, Newton's thoughts began to turn to Christ. He found a New Testament and began to read. Luke 11:13 seemed to assure him that God might still hear him: "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him." That day at the helm, March 21, 1748, was a day Newton remembered ever after, for "On that day the Lord sent from on high and delivered me out of deep waters."

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.*



I have offered a “challenge” to this year’s Roadhouse performers – and I believe that all have accepted. The challenge is that each perform a rendition of Amazing Grace. The first show is on April 9th. With Holy Week following, what a wonderful reminder of a saving God who meets us where we are!

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

2022 SESSION LEADERS AND COMMITTEES: TOWNLEY TASK FORCES

SUPPORT

Buildings & Grounds
 Finances & Budget
 Personnel
 Rentals (leases)

PROGRAM

Congregational Care
 Evangelism
 Fellowship
 Media Outreach
 (Advertising, Facebook, Newsletter,
 Webpage)
 Mission/Outreach
 Roadhouse
 Stewardship

VOCATION

Christian Education:
 Bible Study, Confirmation Classes,
 Prayer Group, Sunday School, Youth
 Activities, etc.)
 Leadership Development
 Music
 Worship

SESSION LEADERS (RULING ELDERS):

Chair: Janet Sangekar
 Lisa Heims
 Irene Schoenwalder

Chair: June Donohue
 Cecelia Harrison
 Linda Zehner

Co-Chairs: Carol Gordon &
Diane Smith

Non-Session Members:
 Kathy Kreie -
 (Financial Secretary)
 Glen Zehner -
 (Buildings & Grounds)

Non-Session Members:

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

CLASS OF 2022

June Donohue
 Cecelia Harrison
 Janet Sangekar
 Linda Zehner

CLASS OF 2023

Carole Gordon
 Lisa Heims

CLASS OF 2024

Irene Schoenwalder
 Diane Smith

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2023 ARE – from choir (1) Cynthia Manno; from congregation (2) Kathy Kreie and Carruthers Tumfour; from session (2) Lisa Heims and Diane Smith

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE:

This year’s Good Friday Service will at 3:00 PM –
 in person and livestreamed on Facebook.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING: 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 need. These programs provide relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the oppressed. If you would like to contribute to this special offering, there will be envelopes provided for your donation on the Sundays prior to Palm Sunday. Please bring your donation to Townley Church on Palm Sunday, April 10, 2022 or on Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022. Thank you for your support! Mission Division.

SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS FOR APRIL & MAY:

DATE	*ELDER-IN-CHARGE	*LAY LEADER
APR. 3	Irene Schoenwalder	Bruce Tangowski
APR. 10	Linda Zehner	Carruthers Tumfour
APR. 17	Carruthers Tumfour	Vyonnia Thompson
APR. 24	Carol Gordon	Maryann Cove
MAY 1	Kathi Kreie	Cynthia Manno
MAY 8	June Donohue	Lynn Bailey
MAY 15	Lois Tangowski	Irene Schoenwalder
MAY 22	Janet Sangekar	Kathy Kreie
MAY 29	Carruthers Tumfour	Lisa Heims



* 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. Also, give yourself enough time to set up prior to worship time.

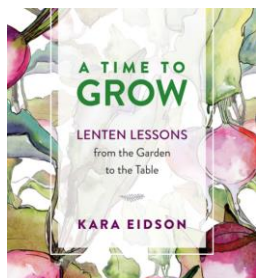
MISSION: June D. asks everyone to please remember the Connecticut Farms Food Pantry. While donations of non-perishable items can be accepted on Sunday mornings at 11:00 AM, you are encouraged to support this ministry with a monthly monetary donation of \$4.00– a dollar a week can bring food to an empty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



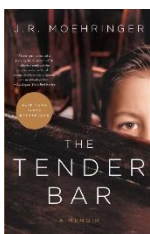
An additional \$15 was received for the Sweetheart Brunch increasing our total profit to \$449. Approximately 90% of the profit will go to the church, and approximately 10% (\$45) will be sent to Connecticut Farms Food Pantry.

We received a thank you letter from Presbyterian Mission Engagement and Support for our \$500 donation.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: From Eden to Gethsemane, the garden in which Jesus was buried and raised, our story of faith wanders through much fertile soil. But in our current world of fast food and to-go meals, we often do not make time to explore where our food comes from and how we break bread together. A Time to Grow encourages us to slow down, move through the painstaking process of growth, and end together with great feasting and celebration of the resurrection. We will be meeting on **Wednesdays at noon, (we started March 2) in-person and on Zoom**, throughout the Season of Lent. See Pastor Ron for the book.



TOWNLEY BOOK CLUB: Our next book is *The Tender Bar – A Memoir by J.R. Moehringer*. A classic American story of the fierce love between a single mother and an only son, and a moving portrait of one boy's struggle to become a man. At eight years old, J.R. turned in desperation to the bar on the corner. The alphas (his uncle and friends) of the bar took J.R. to the beach, to ballgames, and ultimately into their circle. They taught J.R., tended him, and provided a kind of fathering-by-committee. We will discuss it on **Thursday, April 14, at 2:00 PM** in Fellowship Hall. Cecelia



PC(USA) LEADER FORMATION WEBINAR: Good Stewards of God's Grace. *"Like good stewards of*



the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." (1 Peter 4:10) As spiritual leaders in the congregation, deacons and ruling elders have vital gifts to offer in the leadership of worship. This webinar will help to equip ruling elders and deacons for particular roles and responsibilities as worship leaders in a variety of settings including the Service for the Lord's Day; services for ordination; installation, and commissioning; the extended service of communion, and other ministries of compassion and care with those who are sick, homebound, or hospitalized. **This will be shown upstairs in the Townley Church Prayer room on Wednesday, March 30, 2022 7:00 – 8:30 pm.**

SAVE THE DATE: This year's Christmas Party will be held on **Saturday, December 10, 2022** at 5:00 PM. Due to popular request, it was decided to be held again at La Casa Di Martino, 301 West Clay Avenue, Roselle Park, NJ 07204. The price will be \$35.00 per person due to a price increase.



FELLOWSHIP HALL RENTALS: We are now accepting rental requests for Fellowship Hall. Rentals will follow the current CDC guidelines in force for the selected date(s).

RUMMAGE SALE: Our next rummage sale is slated for June 24 & 25, with set-up on June 18. We never had a sale in June but it will be warm and the weather should be nice

Below is the schedule for the sale:

- **June 18th (Saturday)** - Setting up tables for the sale in Bailey Hall (10:00 am - 12:00 noon)
- **June 19th (Sunday)** - Beginning to organize our donations for a short time after church.
- **June 20th - June 23th (Monday thru Thursday):** Set-up of donations in Bailey Hall from 10:30 am to 2:00 pm and 7:30 to 9:00 pm
- **June 24th (Friday):** SALE DAY (8:30 am - 6:00 pm)
- **June 25th (Saturday)**-BAG DAY (9:00 am - 12:00 noon) and CLEAN-UP (12:00 noon until 2:30 pm)

As you all know, the rummage sale takes a lot of time, work, and dedication. Thankfully, our Townley family has always been very supportive and have contributed their time and talents so that our rummage sales have been very successful. **Please check your calendars and let me know as soon as possible what days you can help so that we know if we will have enough volunteers to hold our rummage sale in June.** Thank you!!!! Best, Linda

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

THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY: The next Stated Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2022, at 9:00am via Zoom. The legal address of our new Presbytery is 340 West Passaic Street, 3rd Floor, Rochelle Park, New Jersey 07662. Website <https://pnenj.org>



A NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

Your Session appreciates how you have continued to let giving complete your lives. **Your weekly offerings** are accepted Sundays in person or can be mailed 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.

PER CAPITA: As you know, every December the Board of Trustees of the Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey 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 2022 for Townley is \$40.00 per member.*** Please submit your check for this amount, payable to Townley Presbyterian Church. 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

SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ – April 9, 2022: After 2 years of being closed to shows for the pandemic, the staff at the Roadhouse is so very pleased and thrilled to announce our grand re-opening - - at last!



Our lineup for the shows for this year is full of wonderful, talented performers in many genres of music. Our very first show will be Saturday, April 9 featuring one of our most favorite, solid performers, Carrie Jackson.

Carrie and her backup group, the Jazzin' All Stars, has graced our stage so many times and is familiar to us all. Carrie did an outdoor show for us on the lawn this past September and helped to create a wonderful atmosphere of love and music. Always a reliable performer, Carrie has told me that she is so looking forward to and is so honored to be our first act at our grand re-opening that she is planning to put some extra energy into one of her favorite venues, namely us.

Carrie also donated her time and talent to our Sounds Of The Season show in December, where she not only sang for us, but stayed on to watch and enjoy and encourage all of the other performances. Says Carrie, "I always love coming to Townley Church and the Salem Roadhouse Café because of all of the love I receive. Playing there is like playing for friends in my own living room because of all the wonderful people who welcome me."

The show again is Saturday, April 9th, at 8PM, with doors opening at 7:30. Our usual snacks, desserts and coffee will be served, and we will have original artwork on the walls at the gallery for people to enjoy. As Townley members know, the hall has been recently refurbished and renovated thanks to the bailey family, and the Roadhouse has installed improved venue lighting and stage lighting. Our sound system is top notch. Please invite friends and share the news about our exciting re-opening. Of course, we will require people to wear their masks, and will have fresh air moving through the room to keep things as safe as possible. Bruce Tangowski, Salem Roadhouse Café

REGARDING RULING ELDERS: A MONTHLY SERIES FOR SERVING FAITHFULLY

Sacred Conversation – Question B by Julie Hester – March 15, 2022



Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you? (W-4.0404b.)

"It's time to order Bibles for third graders," my assistant said, dropping the catalog on my desk. "I know it takes you a while to pick them."

She wasn't wrong. For as long as I've been in ministry, one of my favorite — and most challenging — tasks has been giving Bibles to children. Usually with proud adults looking on. Usually after a series of interactive classes to teach "Bible skills." Usually with the child's name on the front. That means ordering in time for embossing. This is my Bible-shopping interior monologue:

- Which translation? It needs to be authoritative, theologically compatible with our denomination, and readable. Extra points if the congregation uses the same translation in worship.
- Which version of that translation? The Gift Bible? Hardcover or softcover? The children's version? The teen or adult study version? Which is most appealing to third graders?
- Are there child-friendly graphics, notes, or pictures that help explain things? Are they *too* childish? Do they square with our theology? If there are pictures, are they diverse in their representation?
- Which Bible will be inviting enough to make them open and read it now? Which will they keep reading in years to come, if this is the only Bible they take into young adulthood?
- What's the cost? Shipping time? Oh, and can we get the names on them?

A complicated matrix. One year the only version that checked all my boxes was out of print. I ordered from four different places online and drove across the state line to pick some up. My assistant almost quit that year. I suppose I could worry less about some of those bullet points, but then there is this question about Scripture that I answered at my ordination. I said *yes* to it, and I want the children in my churches to be able to say *yes* to it as well. That's worth taking some time to consider.

My Bible skills classes with children have evolved. In early years, I taught mostly informational content: The Bible is a library of books. Old Testament, New Testament, let's learn the books in order. What's the Pentateuch? Wisdom Literature? Gospels? Epistles? How do you look up a verse?

In more recent classes, I share my own childhood Bible, complete with red crayon underlining, and talk about what the Bible has meant to me over time. I invite other church members to show their Bibles and talk about them. We learn how the Bible came to be — the remarkable evolution of God's shared Word, from oral tradition to papyrus to the printing press and varied translations, with lively conversation about choosing the canon. We learn that the written revelation of God wasn't dropped down from heaven but inspired by God's Spirit in many ways, through many people, over many years. It continues to be translated, read, and interpreted today, even by third graders.

The Bible skill I most want them (and you) to develop is a voice in the ongoing sacred conversation between God and the people of God: "I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people" (Jeremiah 31:33b).

In his book "Christian Doctrine," Shirley Guthrie noted that an oft-asked question is "Do you believe in the Bible?" That's not what this ordination question asks. We don't believe *in* the Bible. We believe in God, whose Word to us is revealed by the gift of the Holy Spirit, in and through the Scriptures, seen

most clearly through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I want third graders — and officers in the church — to thoughtfully answer the question “Do you believe in the Bible?” like Guthrie did, saying, “No ... Our faith is not in the book but in the God we learn to know in it.”

That’s what it means to say “Yes” to this question: *Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God’s Word to you?*

Rev. Julie Coffman Hester is a pastor and writer in the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. She is inspired by faithful ruling elders, like her parents, and the remarkable disciples with whom she has served in local congregations.

This article is the third in a 12-part series focusing on the constitutional questions that church leaders answer upon their ordination and installation, using some of the materials from "Coming Alive in Christ: Training for PC(USA) Ruling Elders and Deacons Based on the Constitutional Questions," which is available through Equip, the church’s online training platform.



April 22, 2022
1:00pm- 5:00pm

Corner of Morris Avenue and North Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ

Join Elizabeth Mayor Chris Bollwage, Union County Board of County Commissioners, Groundwork Elizabeth and partners for our Earth Day Celebration at Phil Rizzuto's Outdoor Nature and Education Center!

Tree Plantings, Plant Sale, Face Painting, Games, Interactive Tables and more!

Help us grow our Urban Forests! There will be 66 Trees this year, donated by



BAYWAY REFINERY
Linden, NJ

Register Here: <https://forms.gle/hnv2Q4ndMrVEngt19>

Easter Joy



Jesus came to earth,
To show us how to live,
How to put others first,
How to love and how to give.

Then He set about His work,
That God sent Him to do;
He took our punishment on Himself;
He made us clean and new.

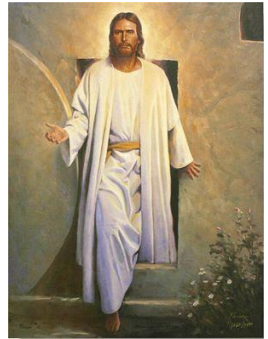
He could have saved Himself,
Calling angels from above,
But He chose to pay our price for sin;
He paid it out of love.

Our Lord died on Good Friday,
But the cross did not destroy
His resurrection on Easter morn
That fills our hearts with joy.

Now we know our earthly death,
Like His is just a rest.
We'll be forever with Him
In heaven, where life is best.

So we live our lives for Jesus,
Think of Him in all we do.
Thank you Savior; Thank you, Lord.
Help us love like you!

By Joanna Fuchs



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