

# “THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

*Monthly Newsletter*  
*APRIL 2026*

*<sup>18</sup> Jesus drew near and said to them, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup>Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20*

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

3 - Lois Tangowski  
4 - Veronica Acosta  
9 - Carole Gordon  
22 - Nisha Beech  
23 - Jermaine Landrau  
28 - Irene Schoenwalder  
30 - Anita Erickson

## PASTOR’S MESSAGE:

### **THE CASE FOR EASTER**

The Wednesday Noon Bible Study Group recently concluded a study led by Lee Strobel on The Case for Easter. Mr. Strobel, who holds degrees in journalism and law, served as a journalist at the Chicago Tribune for fourteen years and received Illinois’ highest awards for investigative reporting. He emphasized to the group that the resurrection of Jesus forms the central foundation of the Christian faith. According to Strobel, if it could be proven that someone returned to life after being definitively pronounced dead and buried, this would provide significant evidence supporting the truthfulness of their claims.

Lee’s research aimed to deeply explore Easter by examining several key questions: Was Jesus truly deceased? Was his tomb genuinely vacant? Did trustworthy witnesses meet him afterward? Additionally, the study considered Christianity’s claims about Jesus’s divinity, and whether Jesus himself ever said he was the Son of God. His Case for Easter was broken down into what he coined as the “**4 E’s**”:

### **EVIDENCE FOR THE RESURRECTION**

The majority of scholars believe that Jesus instructed others to keep his identity secret in order to control when and how information about him was shared. His true identity would eventually be made known, but only after his death and resurrection.

### **AN EXCRUCIATING EXECUTION**

For Jesus, the manner of death is indisputable. He died from the effects of crucifixion, a method of execution so painful they had to invent a new word to describe it: excruciating. Cicero, a Roman statesman in the first century BC, called it “a most cruel and disgusting punishment.” Josephus described it as “the most wretched of deaths.” They understood, as did all who witnessed it, that no one survived a crucifixion.

### **THE EMPTY TOMB**

According to the Gospels, there are only two possibilities: either Jesus was resurrected, leaving the tomb empty, or he remained inside. There is no third option presented.

## EYEWITNESSES TO THE RESURRECTION

Eyewitnesses, both men and women, provided accounts of the events by describing what they observed: they saw the empty tomb and shared their discoveries.

Jesus's disciples declared him the Messiah. He healed the sick, worked miracles, forgave sins, foretold his death and resurrection, died on a Roman cross, and was physically raised from the dead. This question remains: **how will you respond to Jesus?**

### Morning Message

A short, less than 60 second, message of scripture and encouragement is available for members and friends. Text Pastor Ron – 908 477-4706 if you are interested.



**HOLY WEEK SERVICES:** Our Holy Week Services will be as follows:

March 29, 2026 - Palm Sunday 10:00 AM  
April 2, 2026 - Maundy Thursday 7:30 PM  
April 3, 2026 - Good Friday 12:00 PM  
April 5, 2026 - Easter Sunday 10:00 AM (Followed by fellowship in Bailey Hall with the Easter Bunny!)

### SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>*ELDER-IN-CHARGE</u>	<u>*LAY LEADER</u>	<u>COMMUNION</u>
April 5	Kathy Kreie	Diane Smith	Kathy & Diane
April 12	Lisa Heims	Irene Schoenwalder	
April 19	Marty Lindner	Karen Brelowski	
April 26	Linda Zehner	Irene Schoenwalder	
May 3	Carol Gordon	Bruce Tangowski	Carol & Bruce
May 10	Janet Sangekar	Vyonnia Thompson	
May 17	Karen Brelowski	Diane Smith	
May 24	Lois Tangowski	Cynthia Manno	
May 31	Kathy Kreie	Lynn Bailey	

\* 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.

**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.

April 5 - Cynthia Manno      April 19 -  
April 12 – Lynn Bailey      April 26 -



**YOUTH SUNDAYS:** We will be celebrating our young people during worship services on the **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday** of every month. Something new to look forward to!

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Lisa Heims and Merle Lyte were elected as the two session members to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2026-2027. Committee members elected at the Annual Congregational Meeting are: Ruth Ammerman, Cynthia Manno and Kathy Kreie. The Nominating Committee will be meeting soon to begin the process of nominating new session members for 2027.

**2026 TASK FORCE ASSIGNMENTS:**

**SUPPORT:** Pastor Ron, Feret Fenelus, Kathy Kreie (Financial Secretary), Janet Sangekar (Treasurer), and Lois Tangowski (Clerk of Session and Administrative Secretary).

**PROGRAM:** Lisa Heims (Chairperson), Merle Lyte, Karen Brelowski, Cecelia Harrison (Newsletter)

**VOCATION:** Bill Jensen (Chairperson), Lynn Bailey, Tonya Moses, and Bruce Tangowski.  
Includes Congregational Care: Rev. Ron Thompson & Vyonna Thompson

**CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION:** *The Blessing Room* is open to Union County residents **who need** 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 Townley Blessing Room is the location where a ministry dedicated to providing essential items to individuals and families in need takes place. Townley acts as the conduit. As God blesses Townley, we bless others.

*The Blessing Room* will be open on the **1<sup>st</sup> 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 that morning. Donations and volunteers will continue to be needed. Please note that *Saturday, April 4 has been cancelled* due to Holy Week. Our next distribution date will be **May 2<sup>nd</sup>**. See the attached 2026 Schedule,

**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.

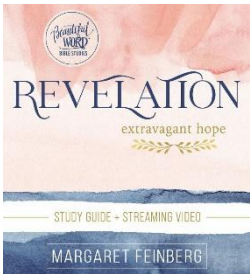
**SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ –** Presents the Mark Adamy Band on **Saturday, April 11, 2026**. The doors open at 7:30pm, the show starts at 8pm. Admission is \$20 and includes show, snacks, non-alcoholic beverages, and dessert. Show proceeds this year will benefit Townley Church's Blessing Room, a place where needed items find their way into the hands of needful people. The Blessing Room operates in coordination with local and county governments and agencies, to provide clothing and small household items that are needed most by families and individuals.

Salem Roadhouse Café will be holding a free lawn concert on **Saturday, May 30, 2026, at 6:00PM**. If it rains, the outdoor concert will be moved into Bailey Hall or the Sanctuary. Volunteers will be needed. Please contact Bruce if you are able to volunteer.

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING:** Townley Church will once again be participating with other Presbyterians in One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). People all over the world suffer from hunger, poverty, natural disasters, and many other hardships. Donations to OGHS gives assistance and hope to people facing these challenging situations. It provides a way to share God's love with people in need. A special envelope will be provided for One Great Hour of Sharing and this offering will be collected on **Palm Sunday, March 29 and Easter Sunday, April 5**. Thank you! Mission Division.

The Presbytery Stewardship & Funds sent us a thank you for our 2025 donation of \$152.16.

## WEDNESDAY NOON BIBLE STUDY:



**Join us on April 15** as we begin our Spring Bible Study on the Book of Revelation. “Mention the book of Revelation, and you’ll receive a spectrum of responses. Some will be intrigued, others fascinated, some perplexed, others hesitant, some nervous, others afraid. Toss around a mention of the number 666 or the beast, and some will wince while others grow wide-eyed.” See Pastor Ron for your study guide.

**REPENT EVANGELISTIC & PRISON MINISTRIES:** Townley Church gave a \$100 donation to this ministry.

**SPRING RUMMAGE SALE:** is scheduled for **Friday, May 22 & Saturday, May 23, 2026.**

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

**PER CAPITA:** The Board of Trustees of the Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey presented the Presbytery’s budget for 2026. 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. ***Townley’s Per Capita for 2026 is \$37.00 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

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



- ✓ Task Force Reports
- ✓ Update from Personnel Committee
- ✓ Elected Session Reps to Nominating Committee
- ✓ Assigned New Session Members to Task Forces
- ✓ Canceled April and July Blessing Room Dates
- ✓ Worshipful Work: RSVP to God’s invitation

**SESSION MEETING:** The next Session meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 15, 2026**, at 7:30 pm **via Zoom**. (Session meetings are usually held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.)

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

**NEW LEGACY BOOKS:** We continue to receive an approximate \$40.00 check or more each month. All book donations must be in good readable condition and have an ISBN barcode on the cover. No Encyclopedias, Magazines or water damaged books can be accepted. Your donation helps raise funds for Church Mission projects and Church repairs. For more information or if you wish to purchase books, please visit: [NewLegacyBooks.com](http://NewLegacyBooks.com).

**FROM THE TREASURER:** We received a gift of \$1,000 from Jermaine & Francina Landau honoring Francina’s mother, Maria Gonzales. This donation went towards the purchase of sanctuary monitors which have been installed in our sanctuary. We also received a generous gift of \$5,000 from the Parnau Family in memory of our dear Laurie Parnau.

**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.

**THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY:** The next meeting of the Presbytery is scheduled for **Saturday, May 30, 2026**, at 9:30am – 11:30am In-Person only at: True Light Presbyterian Church, 18 Essex Rd., Paramus, NJ 07652. Website: <https://pnenj.orgww>.



**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](http://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](mailto:townleychurch@yahoo.com)). Away or missed a service? Catch our Livestream!

## COMMUNITY NEWS



### **PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE – April 1, 2026 – May 2, 2026**

History comes to life in 1776, the Tony winning musical that brings the story behind the creation of the Declaration of Independence to the stage with witty satire, compelling drama, and a thrilling score. With music and lyrics by Sherman Edwards and book by Peter Stone, 1776 follows John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and their fellow delegates as they navigate fiery debates, political tensions, and personal conflicts in their struggle to unite thirteen colonies.

### **Paper Mill Playhouse - Coming up in 2026:**

“West Side Story” – May 28, 2026, through June 28, 2026

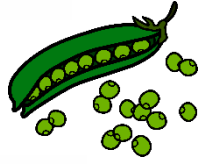
### **UNION'S DMK BLACK BOX THEATER TO HOST HOLA AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL “QUARTER RICAN”.**

Quarter Rican, the HOLA Award-winning hip-hop musical, will take the stage at the DMK Black Box Theater, 1980 Morris Avenue on **April 17, 18, 23, 24, and 25** at 7p.m. and Sunday matinées on **April 19** and 16 at 1 p.m. The production explores the heartfelt realities of modern parenthood and cultural identity. The book was written by Gabriel Diego Hernandez, with music and lyrics by Rachel Elmer an Gabriel Diego Hernandez. The show is recommended for audiences ages 13 and older. To purchase tickets, click [HERE](#).

**THE UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY** will host a full slate of educational and cultural programs throughout March, including an art demonstration, financial literacy workshop, local history talk and wellness classes. Most programs are free, though registration is required for select events and seating is limited. To see the full slate of programs visit website: <https://www.tapinto.net/towns/union>

## THE GARDEN

### FOR THE GARDEN OF YOUR DAILY LIVING:



#### PLANT THREE ROWS OF PEAS:

1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul



#### PLANT FOUR ROWS OF SQUASH:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness



#### PLANT FOUR ROWS OF LETTUCE:

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. ~~Lettuce~~ be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another



#### NO GARDEN IS WITHOUT TURNIPS:

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another



#### TO CONCLUDE OUR GARDEN WE MUST HAVE THYME

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends

WATER FREELY WITH PATIENCE AND CULTIVATE WITH LOVE.  
THERE IS MUCH FRUIT IN YOUR GARDEN BECAUSE YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW.

**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"**