

# “THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

*Monthly Newsletter*  
**AUGUST 2024**

<sup>9</sup> O fear the LORD, you his holy ones, for those who fear him have no want. <sup>10</sup> The young lions suffer want and hunger, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing. Psalm 34:9-10

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

3 Maryann Cove  
8 Cecelia Harrison  
30 Robert Harrison

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE:

**We say and pray her name: Sonya Massey**

Sonya Massey was a 36-year-old woman from Illinois who was fatally shot by police when she called them for help. Massey is one of a number of Black women who have been killed by police in their own homes in recent years, including Breonna Taylor and Atatiana Jefferson. Tragically, our society too easily forgets events like this only to fail to put measures in place to prevent them from reoccurring. I do believe that prayer is an effective response to injustice. Prayer that will bring change to harden hearts and corrupt systems. Teri McDowell Ott, editor and publisher of Presbyterian Outlook, offers a prayer in response to this tragedy.

*“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.” (Isaiah 43:1)*

Her name, God, her name.

We say and pray her name: Sonya Massey.

We despair her loss. We grieve her violent death. We rage against the horror of her killing.

In your mercy, God, help us root out the source of our brokenness, heal from compounding trauma, and find your path to peace. Help us hold a mirror to our society, to honestly examine that which triggers violence, and dedicate ourselves to supporting, not destroying, life. Violence is not your way, God. Violence cannot be our way.

We lift our prayers of grief, our lament for Sonya, her family, her community.

We lift our prayers for understanding, accounting for wrong doing, and for healing.

In the wake of her death, we say and pray her name. Sonya Massey is yours, God, called and claimed, redeemed by your grace and glory.

God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

## Bible Study Returns

Join us on Wednesday, September 4, 2024 at noon, as we begin an eight-week video Bible study on the gospel and how to live it out in all aspects of life--from your community to the world at large. The ***Gospel in Life*** study begins with the city, your home now, the world that is. The final week closes with the theme of the eternal city, your heavenly home, the world that is to come. Throughout this eight-week ascent--from earthly work to the final revelation of grace--we'll learn how the gospel can change our heart, our community, and how we can live as a disciple of Jesus Christ in this world, right now, even as you look forward to the promise we have in him. It was written by the late bestselling author and pastor Timothy Keller. See Pastor Ron for your book.

**SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS:**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>*ELDER-IN-CHARGE</u>	<u>*LAY LEADER</u>	<u>COMMUNION</u>
August 4	Carol Gordon	Lisa Heims	Carol & Lisa
August 11	Karen Brelowski	Kathy Kreie	
August 18	Janet Sangekar	Irene Schoenwalder	
August 25	Lois Tangowski	Karen Brelowski	
Sept. 1	Kathy Kreie	Bruce Tangowski	Kathy & Bruce
Sept. 8	Irene Schoenwalder	Vyonnia Thompson	
Sept. 15	Lisa Heims	Santiago Guzman	
Sept. 22	Marty Lindner	Cynthia Manno	
Sept. 29	Linda Zehner	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.**



**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.

- |                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| August 4 - Lois Tangowski | September 1                  |
| August 11 - Gospel Brunch | September 8 - Lois Tangowski |
| August 18 - Cynthia Manno | September 15 - Gospel Brunch |
| August 25                 | September 22                 |
|                           | September 29                 |

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

**SESSION MEETING:** The next session meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 21, 2024**, at 7:30 pm in the upstairs meeting room. (Session meetings are usually held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.)

**GOSPEL BRUNCHES:** Join us for Gospel Brunches on **Sunday, August 11, September 15, and October 6**. "Good News, Good Music, and Good Food." Services start at 10:00 AM.

**THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY:** The next meeting of the Presbytery is scheduled for **Saturday, September 21, 2024**, from 9:00 am to 11:30 am via Zoom. Website <https://pnenj.org>



**THE SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ** – Presents Radam Schwartz and his Jazz Quartet on **Saturday, August 10, 2024, at 8:00 pm**. Doors will open at 7:30 pm. As always, the Salem Roadhouse Café is lively, intimate, up front, and personal. All ages are welcome. See attached flier.

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

**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.



**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!

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN:**

Townley Church needs help to fund several significant repairs. We appreciate your donations to our "Cherish The Church" Capital Improvement Campaign.



DONATE TO HELP RENOVATE



Help Us Reach Our Goal !



Online



Locally

Donations are tax deductible

**NOTE FROM YOUR TREASURER:** Our Cherish the Church **TOTAL amount received (as of the end of June 2024) was \$28,664.** These funds have been used for our many capital improvements over the past year and a half. Thank you to all who have donated to help us climb towards our goal! Even though this campaign has drawn to a close, please continue to give serious consideration towards making further contributions earmarked for our church property maintenance.

**FALL RUMMAGE SALE:** We **will not be having** a Fall Rummage Sale this year.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY: SAVE THE DATE!** This year's Christmas Party will be held on **Saturday, December 7, 2024** at 5:00 pm. Due to popular demand, it will again be held at La Casa Di Martino, 301 West Clay Avenue, Roselle Park, NJ 07204.

- **NEW ITEMS NEEDED:** Please donate any new items you may have for our **Christmas party prize baskets**. The prize baskets always make for a lot of fun at the party, as well as raise funds for the mission project we choose for the event. We usually acquire many of our new items from the rummage sale donations, but this year we will not be having a fall rummage sale. Please see Lisa or Kathy if you have any new items you would like to donate. Thank you!

**CHRISTMAS "SOUNDS OF THE SEASON":** Mark your calendar for this special musical Christmas show on **Saturday, December 14, 2024.** Watch for future announcements.

# CONGRATULATIONS TO SANDRA & SANTIAGO GUZMAN ON THE BIRTH OF THEIR SON, NOAH!

## REGARDING RULING ELDERS: A MONTHLY SERIES FOR SERVING FAITHFULLY



*Working in the World for Peace, Justice, Freedom, and Human Fulfillment  
By Marissa Galvan-Valle – July 15, 2024*

While scrolling through Facebook, I saw someone share this quote attributed to Rev. Dr. William J. Barber: “Preachers don’t get to stay out of politics. We are either chaplains of empire or prophets of God.” This statement could be seen as controversial and sparked many comments about the separation of church and state, electoral parties, and specific candidates. Understanding the Rev. Dr. Barber’s ministry with the Poor People’s Campaign, I interpreted this as a call for preachers to engage

with the affairs of the “polis.”

“Polis,” a Greek word meaning “city,” also represented a community with its own identity, culture, and social structures. This concept was crucial in the development of democracy in Athens and continues to influence us today in words like “politics,” “policy,” “political,” “politician,” and “polity.”

When we are called to work for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment in the world, we are committing to the Triune God and the church to stay engaged with the polis: to care about the community intentionally. We must consider how government policies and decisions affect everyone in our communities, from those in the suburbs to those struggling to find employment. All these calls to “work for…” are interrelated. The phrase “No justice, no peace!” heard shouted during protests exemplifies this connection. You could also say: No justice, no peace! No peace, no freedom! No freedom, no human fulfillment! These concepts are deeply interconnected.

God sends the church to work for justice and peace in the world. The Book of Order in its Directory for Worship states:

“God sends the Church to work for justice in the world: exercising its power for the common good; dealing honestly in personal and public spheres; seeking dignity and freedom for all people; welcoming strangers in the land; promoting justice and fairness in the law; overcoming disparities between rich and poor; bearing witness against systems of violence and oppression; and redressing wrongs against individuals, groups, and peoples. God also sends the Church to seek peace: in the Church universal, within denominations, and at the congregational level; in the world, where nations and religious or ethnic groups make war

against one another; and in local communities, schools, workplaces, neighborhoods, and homes.” (W-5.0304)

Freedom, here, is the balance between individual conscience, community judgment, and adherence to faith. In exercising freedom, we witness God’s love, support the church’s ministry, and contribute to the well-being of the community and society. We are free because God has set us free. We are free to serve God and others.

Human fulfillment is found in living in covenant fellowship with God and participating in God’s work in the world. We find fulfillment in enjoying, glorifying, trusting, and obeying God. We also find joy in proclaiming the gospel, offering grace to others, and inviting people to discipleship, which gives us purpose and identity. We contribute to the well-being of ourselves, others, and the world. In that fulfillment, there is no need for the individuality that the world promotes. We are polis, and we should care that peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment are available to all.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Union’s Annual Summer Concert Series



The township will be hosting two additional shows as part of the series. All concerts are open to the public and are free of charge. They will be held in Biertufempfel Park on Thursdays from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Blankets and chairs are recommended. Food trucks will be on-site.

- **Thursday, August 8** – The Benjamins (live music act known for their blend of classic and modern styles of rock, punk, alternative, and pop music.
- **Thursday, August 22** – Austin City Night (a modern country cover band)



### Union's Girl's Night Out

This year's event is scheduled for **Friday, August 2, 2024** from 6 to 10 p.m. in Union Center. The event will include a photo booth, giveaways, a beer garden, workshops, a glitter bar, food tastings, and a live performance featuring The Boy Band Project. Girl's Night Out will be "Mean Girls" themed - the night will be so fetch!

The Union County Board of County Commissioners, Union County Prosecutor's Office, Children's Specialized Hospital, Union College of Union County, Union County Police Department, and Union County Sheriff's Department present

# UNION COUNTY



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

## FOR EVERYONE

**A Celebration of Our  
Inclusive Community**

**ACCESSIBLE AND  
SENSORY-SUPPORTIVE!**

Indoor and Outdoor  
Activities and Resources

Submissions for UCPO Special  
Needs Registry Available Onsite

### August 6, 2024 • 4:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Union College of Union County  
1033 Springfield Ave, Cranford NJ

RAIN OR  
SHINE

**MORE INFO: [UCNJ.ORG/UCNNO](http://UCNJ.ORG/UCNNO)**

LOOK FOR  
SIGNAGE



A SERVICE OF THE  
UNION COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS





## Annual Town-Wide Block Party

Union Education Association is hosting a “Town-Wide Block Party” on **Tuesday, August 13, 2024** at Rabkin Park for all Union residents from 11 am to 3 pm. The fun will include music by a DJ, children’s games and bouncy houses, and a health fair featuring Optical Academy, Zumba, kickboxing, and yoga.

Cuisine from local restaurant including Café Z, Cioffi’s, Cozy, Johnny Napkins, Mama’s BBQ, and Qsina 8 will be available. Visitors are asked to bring food to donate to the food pantry and to bring lawn chairs. Those interested, please register.

## A Grand opening celebration of the Union Library and Arts Center



The Grand Opening is set for **Saturday, October 19, 2024** at 1980 Morris Avenue.

- The Main Lower Level will house the Union Arts and Events Center, which will include a café and Union’s art gallery, and also contain the Union TV Studio.

- Main Level will include the circulation desk, private study rooms, a story-time seating area, a sensory room, a recording studio for small-scale audio projects, the youth services department, computers for public use and an outdoor seating area. The library will also have a drive-up window to pick-up or drop-off library material.

- Third Floor will be a boardroom for meetings, a computer lab where the library will offer computer instruction classes, individual study pods, a reading lounge, and an outdoor reading area.

**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”**