

“THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

December 2019 / Issue 23

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

FOOD BANK SUNDAY

Each 4th Sunday they will receive donations of non-perishable food items to contribute to the Connecticut Farms Food Pantry. We are asking our members to support this initiative by giving one non-perishable food item (or \$1) per week.

NURSING HOME VISITATION

Join us on second Sundays, at the Delaire Nursing and Convalescent Center at 2:00 PM for a brief worship service with the shut in. All are welcome.

OPERATION WARM HEART

During December to March, the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless sponsors an emergency shelter program called Operation Warm Heart. Townley has partnered with the St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church in Elizabeth to provide temporary overnight shelter.

The dates are as follows (*Mondays*):

December 2, 9, 16 - January 13, 27

February 10, 24 - March 9, 23

Volunteer to greet and serve an evening meal from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. You need not volunteer for all the dates.

SALEM ROADHOUSE

A fun, creative, community outreach mission of the church, with jazz, rock, and even the occasional folkie in an intimate coffeehouse venue. Volunteers are appreciated to help with show set up, preparing and serving snacks, beverages and desserts. Shows are normally on the second Saturday of the month (less January). Show proceeds benefit local NJ charities.

5 Reasons You Need to Make Church a Weekly Commitment

The following was extracted from a 2016 article by Lisa Appelo.

1) You're missing out on how God has chosen to work in this age.

God founded the church. It's not an invention of men like the Elks club or the Red Cross. God created the church and has specifically tasked it to carry out His work until Christ returns. (Acts 1:2) The church provides fellowship, community, corporate worship, discipleship and ministry; it performs the ordinances of communion and baptism; it sends out the called to the utter ends of the earth.

2) You're missing out on using your spiritual gifts.

Every believer has one or more spiritual gifts – gifts like teaching, giving, serving, evangelism, hospitality and encouraging. When we give a gift, we mean for the recipient to use and enjoy it. Not so with spiritual gifts. They're not meant for the recipient. The spiritual gifts God gives us are meant for the body.

3) You're missing out on spiritual gifts meant for you.

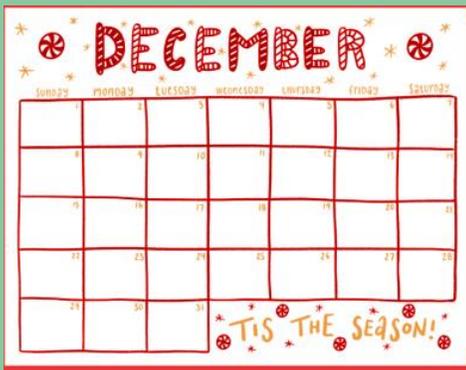
If you're not in a church, you are missing out on the body's spiritual gifts intended for you. Sure, you can turn on the radio or a podcast and hear great preaching. But you'll miss out altogether on the shepherding a local pastor provides. You'll also miss gifts of service, encouragement, hospitality, prophecy and so many more that God intends for you to build you into a strong and mature believer.

4) You're missing out on accountability.

God calls believers to be holy. Can we do that on our own? The more we're out from under regular Biblical teaching and the more we drift away from others also authentically trying to live a holy life, the more difficult it is to live by God's standards. Regular fellowship and intentional worship with the body of Christ re-align us.

5) You're missing out on the sweetest fellowship this side of heaven.

We are meant to walk this Christian life together. Imagine what your life would look like without the friendships, the equipping, the accountability, the ministry that various congregations of believers have provided in your life. Your church makes a positive difference in your life.



DECEMBER DATES

Prayer: *Mondays 4:00-5:00 PM*

December 1

- First Sunday of Advent -- Holy Communion

December 2

- Operation Warm Heart (St. Elizabeth 6:00 PM)

December 6

- Annual Christmas Party: 6:30 PM

December 7

- Roadhouse: 7:30 PM (A toy is the admission!)

December 8

- Second Sunday of Advent / Nursing Home Visitation (Delaire)

December 9

- Operation Warm Heart (St. Elizabeth 6:00 PM)

December 15

- Third Sunday of Advent / Book Club

December 16

- Operation Warm Heart (St. Elizabeth 6:00 PM)

December 18

- Session Meeting 7:30 PM

December 22

- Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24

- Christmas Eve Service 8:00 PM

December 25

- Christmas Day

December 29

- First Sunday after Christmas Day

Mark your calendar!

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