

# “THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

*Monthly Newsletter*

**DECEMBER 2020 / ISSUE 35**

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

7 Janet Sangekar  
21 Feret Fenelus  
23 Tommy Webb  
29 Linda Zehner

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE:

### **Advent and Christmas**

Advent and Christmas create sort of a homecoming for us. We all may not have the same definition of home and the places where we belong. Some people may find home not in physical spaces, but instead in belonging to a community. A community that accepts them for who God created them to be. Community matters.

It is in community that God found a new home among us in the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ. Advent anticipates that God will find this home again in the second coming of Christ as we await that return. Meanwhile, we wait, in community.

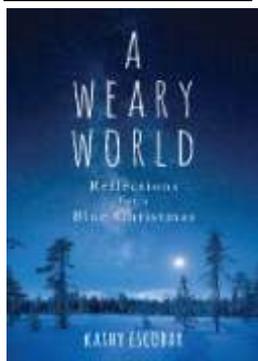
This time of year, Christ can be found in our mangers, surrounded by parents, shepherds, magi, and a variety of animals. But more importantly, the Holy Spirit is found. The Spirit's dwelling places can take us by surprise. Creating a homecoming for us, in which we experience the most comfort and joy. A home, belonging in God's community. May you experience the blessings of belonging.

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE



This year's Christmas Eve Service will be held **outdoors** (weather permitting) on our beautiful front steps. We will have lighted luminaries glowing, handheld candles, and experience the joy and hope of this season through music, song and inspiring words. Join us starting at 6:00 PM. This service will last approximately 30 minutes. Dress appropriately.

**BIBLE STUDY:** This holiday season will be, perhaps, like none that we have experienced. COVID-19 has weighed heavy on our hearts and minds. Grief and sorrow feel particularly acute when compared to the festivity and joy everyone else seems to be feeling as we approach the Christmas season.



Our Advent devotional study, “A Weary World”, is authored by Kathy Escobar. She has been leading Blue Christmas experiences at her church for nearly a decade. “A Weary World”, contains twenty-eight daily reflections paired with prayers and practices to honor our

struggles during the holidays. We will be meeting weekly via Zoom on Wednesday evenings during the month of December from 6:30-7:30 PM, beginning December 2. Please contact Pastor Ron for the study guide and additional information.

**SUNDAY SERVICE:** We will continue enhanced online worship service on Townley Church’s Facebook page at 10:00 am, until further notice (**pending status of COVID-19**). Pastor will email the Sunday bulletin ahead of time.

Since Sunday Service is now being live-streamed at 10 am Sunday mornings for Facebook, **no more than 10 people** are permitted to attend in-person service. Please contact Pastor Ron for additional information.

**SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP:** After service, please join us for fellowship on Zoom while sipping on your favorite beverage. Don’t have a computer? No problem, call in on your home telephone and connect with your fellow church members.

**WORSHIP TEAM:** A worship team consisting of the Pastor, Music Director, Lay Leader, Elder-in-Charge, Song Leader, and Sound/video Technician meet at the church on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am to livestream our online worship service. This worship team does not exceed 10 members on any given day and all safety precautions are observed. Please contact Pastor Ron if you would like to be a part of this team.

**SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS FOR DECEMBER:** Pastor Ron is asking those assigned for their assistance, if you are not considered high risk, with our enhanced Facebook Sunday worship services.

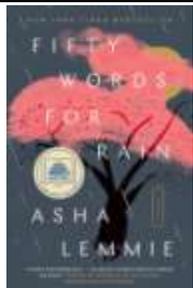
DATE	ELDER-IN-CHARGE	LAY LEADER	COMMUNION
DEC. 6	Tom Catalano	Cynthia Manno	Carol Gordon
DEC. 13	Tom Catalano	Kathy Kreie	
DEC. 20	Linda Zehner	Irene Schoenwalder	
DEC. 27	Kathy Kreie	Bruce Tangowski	
JAN. 3	June Donohue	Janet Sangekar	June Donohue



**“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. In lieu of shopping, please consider setting aside \$1.00 (or more) per week and mail it to Townley Church for distribution.

**TOWNLEY BOOK CLUB**: Our next book is ***50 Words for Rain by Asha Lemmie***. We



will discuss it on Monday, December 7, 2020 at 11:00 am for approximately 1 – 1 ½ hours via Zoom (special thanks to Pastor Ron). At the end of that meeting we will be looking for suggestions for our next book, date and time. The book may be available via curbside pick-up at your library. It is available for purchase through Amazon.com (\$13.99 - \$19.55) and Barnes & Noble (\$13.99-\$22.99). Please let me know if you are interested – so a Zoom invite can be emailed to you. Hope to hear

from you! Cecelia Harrison

**ELIZABETH PRESBYTERY MEETING**: Please register here for the December 8th Presbytery meeting at 7:00 pm. Zoom doors will “open” around 6:30. Documents will be posted by the end of this weekend. [Presbytery Meeting Registration](#)

### **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.



**STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES:** These envelopes were mailed to all members. Please complete and mail back ASAP so the 2021 church budget can be created with this expected income.

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

### **MISSION REPORT ON NOVEMBER 18, 2020**

1. We received thank you letters from both the YWCA and Elizabethport Presbyterian Center for our donations.
2. During November and December the Connecticut Farms food pantry will distribute ShopRite gift cards for recipient's holiday purchases.
3. Forty-eight (48) items were delivered to the Connecticut Farms food pantry.
4. Regarding Operation Christmas Child, in lieu of filling shoe boxes, a \$150 donation from the Townley congregation was sent to Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child.

### **HOLY GRINS**

(submitted by Diane S.)

While driving in Pennsylvania , a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign... "Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. *Caution:* Do not step in exhaust."

### **BRAINIACS**

(submitted by Diane S.)

- \* Why are goods sent by ship called CARGO and those sent by truck SHIPMENT?
- \* Why do we put cups in the dishwasher and the dishes in the Cupboard?
- \* Why do they call it a TV 'set' when there is only one?

### **WHAT HAPPENS IN HEAVEN WHEN WE PRAY?**

By Samuel Lee

Submitted by Diane Smith

I dreamed that I went to Heaven and an angel was showing me around. We walked side-by-side inside a large workroom filled with angels. My angel guide stopped in front of the first section and said, 'This is the Receiving Section. Here, all petitions to God said in prayer are received.'



I looked around in this area, and it was terribly busy with so many angels sorting out petitions written on voluminous paper sheets and scraps from people all over the world.

Then we moved on down a long corridor until we reached the second section.

The angel then said to me, "This is the Packaging and Delivery Section. Here, the graces and blessings the people asked for are processed and delivered to the living persons who asked for them." I noticed again how busy it was there. There were many angels working hard at that station, since so many blessings had been requested and were being packaged for delivery to Earth.

Finally at the farthest end of the long corridor we stopped at the door of a very small station. To my great surprise, only one angel was seated there, idly doing nothing. "This is the Acknowledgment Section, my angel friend quietly admitted to me. He seemed embarrassed. "How is it that there is no work going on here? I asked."

"So sad," the angel sighed. "After people receive the blessings that they asked for, very few send back acknowledgments."

"How does one acknowledge God's blessings?" I asked.

"Simple," the angel answered. Just say, "Thank you, Lord."

"What blessings should they acknowledge?" I asked.

"If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep you are richer than 75% of this world. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy, and if you get this on your own computer, you are part of the 1% in the world who has that opportunity."

"If you woke up this morning with more health than illness.. You are more blessed than the many who will not even survive this day."

"If you have never experienced the fear in battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation... You are ahead of 700 million people in the world."

"If you can attend a church without the fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death you are envied by, and more blessed than, three billion people in the world."

"If your parents are still alive and still married.... you are very rare."

"If you can hold your head up and smile, you are not the norm, you're unique to all those in doubt and despair....."

"Ok," I said. "What now? How can I start?"

The Angel said, "If you can read this message, you just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you as very special and you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all."

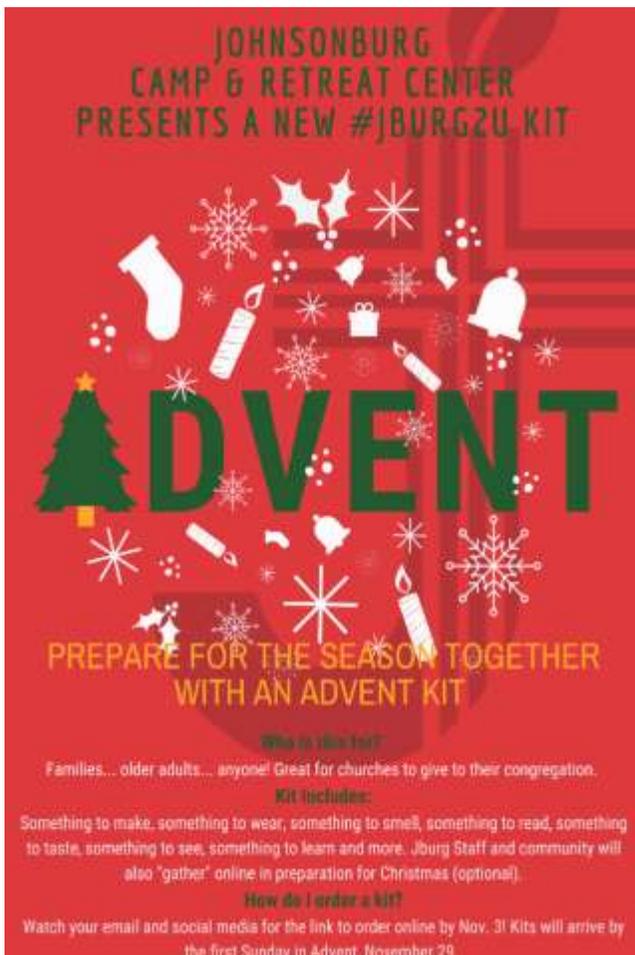
Have a good day, count your blessings, and if you care to, pass this along to remind everyone else how blessed we all are.....

ATTN: Acknowledge Dept.

"Thank you Lord, for giving me the ability to share this message and for giving me so many wonderful people with whom to share it."

If you have read this far, and are thankful for all that you have been blessed with, how can you not send it on?

I thank God for everything, especially all my family and friends.



### **LOOKING FOR SOME ADVENT RESOURCES FOR YOUR FAMILIES AND FOLKS IN YOUR CHURCH?**

Let us help you! The Johnsonburg team will assemble Advent kits with activities to prepare for Christmas, and mail them to as many people as you wish! No need to reinvent the wheel; let's work together. Our #jburg2u kits were much loved this summer!

Order easily online (or call the Johnsonburg office at 908-852-2349 and send a check) and we will take care of the rest. Visit the website at [www.campjburg.org](http://www.campjburg.org) for more information. [Click here to purchase Advent kits.](#)

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