

# “THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

*Monthly Newsletter*  
**DECEMBER 2024**

*Mary Visits Elizabeth*

<sup>39</sup> At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, <sup>40</sup> where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup> In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!" <sup>43</sup> But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!" Luke 1:39-45

## **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

7 Janet Sangekar  
29 Linda Zehner

## **PASTOR'S MESSAGE:**

### **THE SEASON OF ADVENT**

The word advent refers to "the arrival of a notable person, thing or event. Christians use this word to refer to the coming or second coming of Christ. It's not only the first coming we talk about in Advent, that long-ago birth of the baby Jesus, but also His second coming "in power and great glory".

Advent is a season of surprising paradox and reversal. As our calendar year draws to a close, the church's year is just beginning. Days grow darker and we watch and wait for the light that is coming into the world. Looking back, we celebrate the mystery of God's incarnation in Jesus of Nazareth. Looking forward, we anticipate the consummation of history and Christ's coming again in glory to reign.

Joyce Rupp offers: "Advent is an invitation to deepen our capacity for peace. As we prepare for the celebration of Christ's coming, we are called to nurture peace in our hearts, homes, and communities, reflecting the love of God in our actions." Frederick Buechner adds, "Advent is a time to listen for the peace that comes from God, a peace that we can share with others, reminding them they are not alone in their struggles."

Let's look back, with gratitude, at the gift of the Messiah. But let's not neglect to look forward, with hope, for Christ's glorious return. While looking forward, let us work, watch, and pray for signs of God's liberating love. A love that lifts up the oppressed, welcomes outsiders, and humbles the powerful and proud. Let us devote ourselves to the service of people less fortunate than we are. May our own humble, holy, human actions magnify the glory of God and bring peace to a troubled world.



## SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>*ELDER-IN-CHARGE</u>	<u>*LAY LEADER</u>	<u>COMMUNION</u>
Dec. 1	Marty Lindner	Cynthia Manno	Marty & Cynthia
Dec. 8	Linda Zehner	Bruce Tangowski	
Dec. 15	Janet Sangekar	Lynn Bailey	
Dec. 22	Carol Gordon	Lisa Heims	
Dec. 29	Karen Brelowski	Kathy Kreie	
Jan. 5	Lois Tangowski	Irene Schoenwalder	Lois & Irene
Jan. 12	Kathy Kreie	Karen Brelowski	
Jan. 19	Irene Schoenwalder	Bruce Tangowski	
Jan. 26	Lisa Heims	Vyonna Thompson	

**\* 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.

Dec. 1 – Deb & Janine  
Dec. 8 – Maryann Cove & Veronica Acosta  
Dec. 15 – Pastor Ron  
Dec. 22 – Kathy Kreie  
Dec. 29 – Elaine J. Brooks

**BIBLE STUDY GROUP:** The Wednesday Bible Study Group's "Gospel in Life" study written by Timothy Keller finished with a joint project in which we helped the Townley Pre-School with their "Trunk or Treat" on Halloween, Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> in the back parking lot. **See page 4** of this newsletter to see our "Trunk or Treat" crew (including the Pre-School's twin directors).



**NEXT BIBLE STUDY:** Join us on Wednesday, **December 4, 2024**, at noon, as we begin a four-week video Bible Study on The Marvel and Miracle of Advent written by Christine Caine and Lisa Harper. "Jesus' arrival on earth changed the course of history forever. Not only for those who lived in the first century, but for those of us in the twenty-first century as well. The miracle and marvel of the Advent season demonstrates that we are precious to Him. He's not a distant God. He is Emmanuel, God with us. That includes wherever you are, right now." See Pastor Ron for your book.

**ROOM NEEDED:** A local contractor who has lived in the area for over 50 years is seeking a room with use of kitchen and laundry facilities. He is willing to help with maintenance, repairs, and pay his share of utilities, etc., in lieu of rent. Please call **Paul at 908-868-1359**.

**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.

**BOOK DONATION BIN:** The book bin has been a success! New Legacy Books has been giving us a check for \$40 each month since June for books donated.

**HURRICANE RELIEF:** \$720 was collected for North Carolina's Hurricane Relief. Monies were sent through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA).

**SESSION MEETING:** The next session meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 18, 2024**, at 7:30 pm in the upstairs meeting room. (Session meetings are usually held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.)

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



- ✓ Pastor and Task Force Monthly Reports
- ✓ Karen Brelowski as Assistant Clerk of Session
- ✓ Roadhouse February show date reconsidered and approved
- ✓ Roadhouse 2025 show dates approved
- ✓ Annual Congregational Meeting will be on Feb 2, 2025
- ✓ Installation of new elders will be on Feb 9, 2025

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

**THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY:** The next meeting of the Presbytery is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 10, 2024**, at 6:30 pm via Zoom. Website <https://pnenj.org>



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



**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!

**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.

*Christmas Party*



**CHRISTMAS PARTY:** 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. **The cost is \$45 per person, please give it to Kathy or Lisa by Sunday, December 1 (no later).**

**CHRISTMAS "SOUNDS OF THE SEASON":** Mark your calendar for this special musical Christmas show on **Saturday, December 14, 2024**. We extend an invitation to all Townley Church members to help with running the show. We need ushers, people at the front greeting table, and general help in many places. If you're interested in helping, please contact Ruth Ammerman. We also need your help with promoting the show. We encourage you to share the flyer and to extend an invitation to see the show to your friends and family. See attached flier.



**TOWNLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*

*8:00 PM -- December 24, 2024*



**SWEETHEART VALENTINE'S DAY BRUNCH** – is now scheduled for Sunday, **February 16, 2025**.

**SPRING RUMMAGE SALE** - is tentatively scheduled for **May 2 & 3, 2025**.

**THE BIBLE STUDY TRUNK OR TREAT CREW!**



## CHRISTMAS TIME

By Ronald Doe



Christmas time is finally here.  
It only comes but once a year,  
And it's a time to spread good cheer  
To those we love and hold so dear.

Christmas time is a time of glee,  
A time when peace and love run free,  
A time for those like you and me  
To sit beneath the Christmas tree.

Christmas time is a time of joy,  
A time to sit back and enjoy  
The smile on each girl and boy,  
As they play with a Christmas toy.

Christmas time is a time to share  
The passing of another year.  
Birth of Jesus, a joyful prayer,  
To show loved ones how much we care.

Christmas time is a time for song,  
A time for us to get along,  
To make us feel Lord Jesus strong,  
Forgive all those who did us wrong.

Christmas time is a time to pray,  
Put love and kindness on display,  
Show compassion along the way.  
Christmas time should be every day.

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Papermill Playhouse



Papermill Playhouse will be playing Irving Berlin's White Christmas Broadway musical extravaganza on **NOV 27–DEC 29, 2024**. It is based on the classic 1954 holiday film of the same name. "Two army buddies enlist the help of their showbiz pals to put on a show at a picturesque Vermont inn and end up finding their perfect mates. This incredible score contains some of Berlin's most popular tunes including "Blue Skies," "I Love a Piano," "How Deep Is the Ocean?," "Count Your Blessings," and the title song, "White Christmas."

## Union's Winter Wonderland and Holiday Village



Union will once again be getting into the holiday spirit with the annual Winter Wonderland and Holiday Village at Biertuempfel Park on. Holiday festivities planned for **December 6 and 7** include live performances, Santa's Workshop, a beer garden, food trucks, unique vendors, and more.

## Connecticut Farm School PTA to Host Decemberfest



Connecticut Farms Elementary School's PTA will be hosting a Decemberfest Vendor Fair and Festival on Friday, **December 13**, beginning at 5 p.m. The event will feature a tree lighting ceremony, holiday music, food trucks and vendors, a free gift wrap station, a festive family photo area, and hot chocolate and coffee. Entry is \$5 per person, which covers the train rides (for adults and kids), bounce house, fire/smores station, and arts and crafts. Connecticut Farms School is at 875 Stuyvesant Avenue.

**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"**

## 2024 POINSETTIA SALE



Qty \_\_\_\_\_ Poinsettia Plant(s) .....\$20.00 each

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Donated by: \_\_\_\_\_

Help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas services and have a lovely poinsettia to take home following the Holiday. All plants left after the services will be distributed to the home bound.

Please put the completed form with payment in the collection plate or give it to Diane S. or Carol G. by Sunday, December 15, 2024.

TOWNLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
829 Salem Road  
Union, NJ 07083