

“THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

Monthly Newsletter
FEBRUARY 2023

“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”
Deuteronomy 6:5



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

7 Marie Lindner
18 Lisa Heims



PASTOR'S MESSAGE:

Love and Lent

This February spearheads two complimentary events: Love and Lent. Typically, those words are not used in the same sentence. Perhaps they should be. Needless to say, Love is associated with this month, AKA Valentine's Day. And Lent, beginning on the 22nd, is linked to repentance. By combining these two terms, let us see this February as a time for reaching for God's love in becoming better persons, better Christians.

During Lent, we focus on what to “give up” or on finding ways to make things harder on ourselves so that we can become more Christlike. However, Jesus is also loving and joyful. He taught his disciples what they should not do, but he also taught them what they should do, and that includes doing positive things that affect the spiritual growth and advancement of ourselves and others. Why not use Lent as a resolution in doing *daily positive things* that will help us and others grow in faith, hope, and love. ***Daily Positive Things* like:**

1. ***Reading Scripture.*** Even ten minutes a day can lead you to a deepening of faith and a greater understanding of our heritage as people of God.
2. Resolve to perform ***one random act of kindness.*** Hold a door open, let someone get in line first.
3. ***Eat well.*** Yes, eat the foods that are good for you, even if you don't like them.
4. ***Enlighten someone's day.*** Send an uplifting card, email, or phone a family member, friend, or acquaintance that shows you're thinking about, and praying for, him/her.
5. Don't pray more, ***pray better.*** Light a candle, sit in a more attentive position, or change to a more secluded atmosphere so that you can really be alone and focused on God.
6. ***Watch TV or movies.*** Try something educational, inspirational, and spiritual that aren't only good for our souls but also for our minds in regard to learning more about our Faith or Church history.
7. Rise and shine. ***Get up 15 minutes earlier.*** Spend that time in God's presence, telling him how much you love him.
8. Speaking of love... ***Pray for the grace to love God as you ought to.***
9. Make time for spiritual Communion. In short, ***come to church.***
10. ***Do the ordinary things extraordinarily well.*** So much good can be done by doing the things you normally do, but with extraordinary care and love. That in itself can be a most wonderful offering to God!

Love and Lent!



ASH WEDNESDAY: There will be an Ash Wednesday service on February 22, 2023, at 7:00 pm., following a 6:00 pm meatless soup supper. Bring your favorite meatless soup (in a crock pot – if you have one)! **A coordinator for the supper is needed** – please see Pastor Ron.

SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS FOR FEBRUARY & MARCH:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>*ELDER-IN-CHARGE</u>	<u>*LAY LEADER</u>	<u>COMMUNION</u>
February 5	June Donohue	Irene Schoenwalder	June D. & Irene S.
February 12	Janet Sangekar	Carruthers Tumfour	
February 19	Kathy Kreie	Cynthia Manno	
February 26	Irene Schoenwalder	Lisa Heims	
March 5	Linda Zehner	Lisa Heims	Linda Z. & Lisa H.
March 12	Carruthers Tumfour	Kathy Kreie	
March 19	Carol Gordon	Lisa Heims	
March 26	Kathy Kreie	Bruce Tangowski	



*** 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 time.**



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. This is the current schedule:

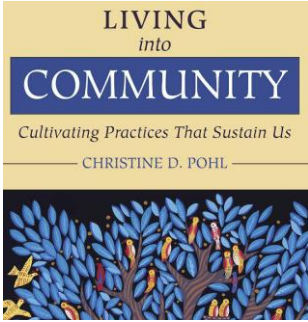
- February 5 – Kathy Kreie
- February 12 – Sweetheart Brunch
- February 19 – Linda Zehner
- February 26 – Lisa Heims

HELP FOR THE HOMELESS

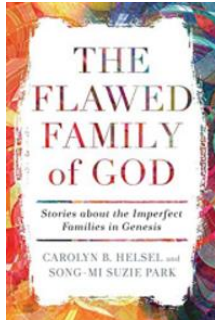


Zion Lutheran Church, Rahway, NJ is using its Fellowship Hall of the Church as a homeless shelter. Zion's shelter is primarily operated by volunteers from the church and community. Food, entertainment, and services are all provided by volunteers. The shelter is reopening again on February 1, 2023! It is a communal space where our guests are fed a hot meal, dessert, and drinks. Our guests sleep on cots. Shelter is offered from 6pm to 7am the following morning where breakfast is served. Food can be homemade or bought from restaurants or donated from elsewhere. If food is prepared, it can be done so at the church with its two ovens and microwaves, or it can be prepared at home and heated up at the social hall of the church. All of the meals are provided to our guests by the community. We are always accepting donations of food for breakfast - cereal, instant oatmeal, fruit, bagels, donuts, coffee, and tea. This service is essential in keeping our most vulnerable people from sleeping on the street! This life saving work wouldn't be possible if it wasn't for you! Please see Pastor Ron if you are interested in volunteering or contributing to Zion, Rahway's Operation Warm Heart Homeless Shelter.

TOWNLEY COMMUNITY GROUP



The “Townley Community Group” is meeting on **Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30 PM** in the Prayer Room. The group will begin a meaningful discussion of a book entitled “Living into Community – Cultivating Practices That Sustain Us”. – Christian community begins in gratitude, is sustained by our promises and truthfulness, and is expressed in hospitality. All are welcome to join the discussion and fellowship – snacks included! See Francia, Sandra, Santiago, or Pastor Ron for more info.



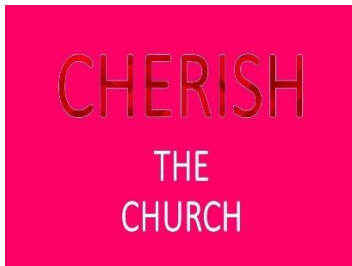
TOWNLEY MONDAY NOONTIME BIBLE STUDY RESUMED ON JANUARY 23

Bible Study resumed on Monday, January 23, 2023 at Noon in Bailey Hall. The “Flawed Family of God” is a 10-week study. This book consists of stories about the imperfect families found in the Book of Genesis. All are welcome to join the discussion. Please see Pastor Ron for more info.



SWEETHEART BRUNCH:

Join us after worship service on Sunday, February 12, 2023 in Bailey Hall. Cost is \$20 per person. As always, there will be a Tricky Tray auction with proceeds going towards a mission project and our capital improvement campaign. Please RSVP to June Donohue.



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN:

Session has approved initiating a capital improvement campaign “Cherish Our Church” to help fund several significant and necessary repairs to the church to help offset the expense. Please see Lisa Heims or Kathy Kreie with fundraising suggestions.

SESSION MEETING: The next session meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 20, 2023 at 7:30 pm in Bailey Hall. (Session meetings are the 3rd Monday of each month.)

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING of Townley Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, February 26, 2023 immediately following the 10:00 am worship service for the purpose of electing officers, presenting the budget, and any other business that may properly come before the meeting.



SPRING RUMMAGE SALE: Our *tentative dates* for the spring rummage sale are April 28 & 29, 2023.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS DAY – Is tentatively being planned for June 4th, details to come.

Gospel Brunch

Join us for Gospel Brunches on Sunday, June 11th, July 9th and September 10th. These will be services held in Bailey Hall the mornings after our Summer Roadhouse performances. Let's describe them as: "Good News, Good Music, and Good Food". Services start at 10:00 AM.

WELCOMING COMMITTEE: Francia (*Bayona*) Landrau is looking for volunteers to serve with her on a new welcoming committee for our church. Let her know if you are interested.

PER CAPITA: As you know, every December the Board of Trustees of the Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey presents the Presbytery's budget for the coming year. 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. The complete budget can be viewed on the Presbytery website. **The Per Capita for 2023 for Townley is \$40.00 per member** (the same as last year). 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

MISSION:

- Roadhouse Café's December proceeds in the amount of \$750.00 was donated to the YWCA in Kenilworth for their PALS program.
- We continue to support the Connecticut Farms Church Food Pantry, and a check in the amount of \$100 will be sent to them.
- The Christmas Party netted \$628.00. \$200 of the proceeds were donated to the YWCA Domestic Violence Program in memory of Jan Lillian (former director of the program), and \$428.00 went towards our Capital Improvement Fund.
- Presbyterian Mission Engagement & Support sent us a thank you letter for our \$150 donation.
- Connecticut Farms Church Food Pantry send us a thank you letter for our \$200 donation.



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.

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

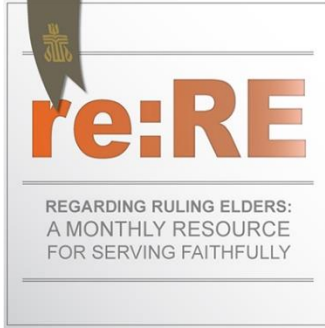
BAILEY HALL RENTALS: Bailey Hall rentals are available for \$650.00 (\$450 for Hall, \$100 Sexton fee, and a \$100 refundable deposit).



THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY: The next Stated Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at 9:00am via Zoom. The legal address of our new Presbytery is 340 West Passaic Street, 3rd Floor, Rochelle Park, New Jersey 07662. Website <https://pnenj.org>

REGARDING RULING ELDERS: A MONTHLY SERIES FOR SERVING FAITHFULLY

Reading the room by Marissa Galván -Valle – January 13, 2023



As someone whose second language is English, I have always been fascinated by English language expressions. I remember, for example, explaining the meaning of “the whole nine yards” to a colleague whose first language is not English. The face they made was memorable, when they could not understand how what seemed to be a reference to sports had made its way into a church meeting.

One of my favorites is the advice to “read the room.” It usually means to be intentional in picking up on the subtle nonverbal cues that surround you in a particular place. For a speaker, this may be knowing when a joke will work and when it will not work. For a teacher, it is discerning whether one activity or exercise will work for their group. On social media, it is the practice of knowing what to comment and when.

As I read the definition of ruling elder in the Book of Order (G-2.0301), the connection between the words “ruling” and “reading the room” seems apparent to me. “Ruling elders are so named not because they ‘lord it over’ the congregation ([Matt. 20:25](#)), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life.”

Instead of emphasizing “ruling” as exerting power or authority, which is its more popular definition as an adjective, the description goes back to the origin of the word. In Latin, the word “regula” means straightedge or measuring stick, bar or ruler.

So, the way for a ruling elder to strengthen and nurture the faith and life of the congregation is to be effective in reading the room, in discerning the needs of the community of faith, and in always measuring the efforts to build the kin-dom of God in the place where the church has been placed and beyond.

But what are the parameters for reading the room? What do ruling elders measure against to figure out if the vitality of the congregation is up to par? This kind of measuring is not based necessarily on numbers, which is what we use to let us know how many new members we have or how the offerings are for a particular month. I propose that one “measuring stick” for reading the room and measuring the vitality of congregations is that ruling elders begin each year by looking at G-1.0304, The Ministry of Members.

“Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ’s mission. A faithful member bears witness to God’s love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ’s Church. Such involvement includes:

proclaiming the good news in word and deed,

taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation,

lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support,

studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life,

supporting the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time and talents,

demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church,

responding to God’s activity in the world through service to others,

living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural and social relationships of life,

working in the world for peace, justice, freedom and human fulfillment, caring for God’s Creation, participating in the governing responsibilities of the church, and reviewing and evaluating regularly the integrity of one’s membership, and considering ways in which one’s participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful.”

These involvements should be the guide and measurement for all church members, but especially for ruling and teaching elders. These are ways for ruling elders to continue to grow in lives that are demonstrations of the Christian gospel in the church and in the world (G-2.0104).

They are also measurements with which to evaluate the life of a congregation. Are you, as a ruling elder, proclaiming the good news in word and deed? What are some of the ways your church is doing this? Are you, as a ruling elder, demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church? How are the people who are connected to your congregation giving witness to the new life they have received in Christ Jesus? In what ways are you working as a ruling elder for peace, justice, freedom, human fulfillment and caring for God’s Creation? What is your church doing to contribute to this work?

Ruling elders are called because the congregation has discerned that they are “persons of wisdom and maturity of faith” who have “demonstrated skills in leadership” and are “compassionate in spirit” (G-2.0301). Discernment continues as you seek to measure the work of the church you have been called to lead. You are called to read the room, to always be alert to the church’s fidelity to the Word of God, and to find ways to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. And using the Ministry of Members as a measuring stick for your life and the life of the congregation could be one of the ways to do so.

Marissa Galván-Valle is a minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). She is the senior editor for Spanish Language Resources in the [Presbyterian Publishing Corporation](#) and temporary pastor at [Beechmont Presbyterian Church](#) in Louisville, Kentucky, an intercultural church that worships each Sunday in Spanish and English. She was ordained as a ruling elder when she was 21 years old.

Townley Presbyterian Church, 829 Salem Road, Union, NJ 07083
Office:(908) 686-1028
Email: TownleyChurch@yahoo.com
Website: TownleyChurch.org
Facebook: Like us on “Townley Church”

Logic Puzzle Answer

Name	Destination	Departure Hour	Group Size
Daisy	Fenfield	9:05	2
Billy	Crow Bay	9:42	4
Frank	Merry Junction	9:22	5
Louella	Dartington	9:17	1
William	Slowvillage	9:50	3



Breaking the Myth of Presbyterian Fear of the "E" Word

A PC(USA) Leader Formation Webinar

February 23, 2023; 7:00-8:30 p.m. (eastern)

Registration Deadline: February 15 [HERE](#)

Presbyterians have a long and rich history of evangelism. Rekindling the yearning to share the Good News of Christ's love, we will incorporate the Yao mores of kalibu and ulongo, radical welcome, and relationship. Employing these concepts we can live into our quest to answer Jesus' call to make disciples of all people.

This event is provided for free for participants and is funded through your per capita dollars. It does not come without cost, however. Knowing the diversity of language within the PC(USA), this webinar will be provided in several languages with interpretation based on requests made through the registration process. As a result, there is a registration deadline of **February 15, 2023**, in order to be able to have time to arrange for those services. Advanced registration is not necessary for access to the recording which will be available in English following the event.

Register for the webinar by February 15, 2023, [here](#)