

# “THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

*Monthly Newsletter*

**JANUARY 2021**

## **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

31 Glenda Ramdeen

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

### **PASTOR'S MESSAGE:**

The following letter was sent by our Acting Synod Leader regarding a fire at the Martin Luther King Community Presbyterian Church on December 28.

Dear Friends,

I write with a deeply troubled heart to let you know that early this morning fire caused heavy damage to the Martin Luther King Community Presbyterian Church in Springfield MA, the only African American church within the Presbytery of Southern New England. No one was hurt, but the church is unusable. The Springfield Arson and Bomb Squad, the State Police Arson and Bomb Squad, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, and the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms are investigating the fire. Clearly, there is a question of arson. When a reporter asked why the FBI was involved, an official said that the church fire happened at night and therefore has to be treated as a hate crime.

Lisa Baker, Synod Commission member representing the Presbytery of Southern New England, is a member of this church. She is grateful that given the pandemic the church has been worshipping and doing its community work online and will continue to do so. Her voice was filled with resilience and with faith that the church community will pull through this. General Presbyter, Rev. Shannan Vance Ocampo, left her home in Albany to drive to the church and be with the church community. She reported that Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has already been contacted. Shannan promised to stay in touch with information about the investigation and about the church.

The mere fact that there is even a question of arson reminds us of a long history of racism that drives angry White people to burn Black churches that are sanctuaries and sacred spaces where Black people have gathered to worship God and to hold together as a community. It compels us as Christians to profess and live into the fundamental requirement to be our sisters' and brothers' keepers in this time of sorrow and their time of need. It compels us to search our souls to determine what we can do to help bring about racial justice within our church and within the land.

In closing, let me say to the Pastor and members of Martin Luther King Community Presbyterian Church, stand resolute. Isaiah 41:10 tells us, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Blessings on you,

Rev. Nancy Talbot  
Acting Synod Leader  
Synod Stated Clerk

**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.

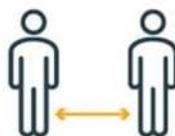
**SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP:** After service, please join us for fellowship on Zoom while sipping on your favorite beverage. Don't have a computer? No problem, call in on your home telephone and connect with your fellow church members.

**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.

CASES ARE RISING.  
**ACT NOW!**



WEAR A MASK



STAY 6 FEET APART



AVOID CROWDS

**SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS FOR JANUARY:** 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
JAN. 3	June Donohue	Janet Sangekar	June Donohue
JAN. 10	Feret Fenelus	Cecelia Harrison	
JAN. 17	Lois Tangowski	Feret Fenelus	
JAN. 24	Carol Gordon	Vyonia Thompson	
JAN. 31	Janet Sangekar	Carruthers Tumfour	

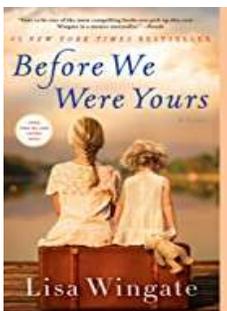


**“TIME FOR PRAYER”:** We are praying by teleconference on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm. All may call in to pray and/or make prayer requests: Dial-in using your phone: 1 717-275-8940. Access code: 367 0530

**PER CAPITA:** As you know, every December the Board of Trustees of the Presbytery of Elizabeth 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 2021 for Townley is \$45.00 per member (same as last year).*** Please submit your check for this amount before February 1st, payable to Townley Presbyterian Church and mail it to the 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:** 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 *Before We Were Yours: A Novel by Lisa*



*Wingate.* Thank you, Carole Gordon, for the suggestion. We will discuss it on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 7:30 pm for approximately 1 – 1 ½ hours via Zoom. We’ve changed the meeting time to the evening to better accommodate everyone. 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 (\$12.99 - \$13.58) and Barnes & Noble (\$12.99-\$13.99). Cecelia Harrison

**THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** of Townley Presbyterian Church will



be held on Sunday, February 21, 2021 via Zoom 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.

**NORTH EAST PRESBYTERY - UNION COUNTY CHURCHES:** A Guiding Team of people invited by the moderators of the three sending presbyteries continues to meet. The search team consisting of members elected by each of the three presbyteries has posted Ministry Information Forms (MIF's) for the presbytery leadership positions on the Church Leadership Connecton (CLC). Save the date for an initial Committee on Ministry Training (COM) gathering and initial Commission on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) gathering on Saturday January 16th. More information on this will follow after the 1st of the year. [Here](#) is a [link to a Google Map](#) showing the churches in the new North East Missional Community. Representatives from the Nominating Teams of all three presbyteries sending churches to the new North East Presbytery continue to meet and are working to nominate presbyters for the structure of the new presbytery. Questions regarding the North East Presbytery process may be directed to *Rev. Jeremy Campbell* or the *Rev. Ron Thompson* .

**CONGRATULATIONS TO REV. RUSSELL C. BLOCK,** Honorably Retired member of



the presbytery who was honored with a Proclamation of the Township of Union honoring his lifetime of achievement and recognizing his contributions in Union during the civil rights era when he served as Associate Pastor at Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church. (His daughter Connie and her family were members of our church, and Pastor Block occasionally filled in

as our guest pastor.) An article sharing more about the life and work Rev. Block was published in the Union Times Daily and may be found at:

<https://unionnewsdaily.com/news/union/55082>

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

### **MISSION REPORT FOR DECEMBER 16, 2020**

1. We received a thank you letter from Sheila Griffin, Connecticut Farms Church, for our food donation and also our check for \$205.00.
2. As of December 16, 2020, \$45 was donated to our food bank.

June Donahue

**MOVING NEWS:** Linda and Tom Catalano's new address is: 160 North Madison Drive, South Plainfield, NJ 07080

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Glenda and Vishnu Ramdeem on the marriage of their daughter Shana to Richie Bigus. The blessed couple were married on November 14, 2020 on Long Island. Shana's sister Marsha performed the ceremony. Shana's brother Kevin is also happy to have a brother-in-law.

## 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.



### 10 FACTS ABOUT THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

By Telegraph Reporters for Yahoo!Life

1. The three Kings (Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar) represented Europe, Arabia and Africa respectively.
2. Hundreds of years ago, roast lamb was traditionally served at Epiphany in honor of Christ and the three Kings' visit.
3. Whoever finds the small statue of a baby Jesus hidden inside their slice of the Rosca de Reyes throws a party on Candlemas in February.
4. In some European countries, children leave their shoes out the night before to be filled with gifts, while others leave straw for the three Kings' horses.
5. According to Greek Orthodox Church's traditions, a priest will bless the waters by throwing a cross into it as worshippers try to retrieve it.
6. In Bulgaria too, Eastern Orthodox priests throw a cross in the sea and the men dive in - competing to get to it first.
7. In Venice, a traditional regatta that started as a joke in the late 70s has been incorporated in the celebrations of Epiphany Day.

8. In Prague, there is a traditional Three Kings swim to commemorate Epiphany Day at the Vltava River.
9. In New York, El Museo del Barrio has celebrated and promoted the Three Kings' Day tradition with an annual parade for more than three decades. Thousands take part in the procession featuring camels, colorful puppets and floats.
10. The day's activities involve singing holiday carols called aguinaldos.

### **VERY INTERESTING STUFF**

Submitted by Diane Smith

1. Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled 'Gentlemen Only...Ladies Forbidden'. Thus the word GOLF entered into the English language.
2. Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than the U.S. Treasury.
3. Coca-Cola was originally green.
4. It is impossible to lick your elbow.
5. The State with the highest percentage of people who walk to work: Alaska
6. The average number of people airborne over the U.S. In any given hour: 61,000
7. Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair.
8. The first novel ever written on a typewriter - Tom Sawyer.
9. The San Francisco Cable cars are the only mobile National Monuments.
10. Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history:  
Spades - King David                      Clubs - Alexander, The Great  
Hearts - Charlemagne                      Diamonds - Julius Caesar
11. If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle.  
If the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died because of wounds received in battle.  
If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.
12. Only two people signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, John Hancock and Charles Thomson. Most of the rest signed on August 2, but the last signature wasn't added until 5 years later.
13. Half of all Americans live within 50 miles of their birthplace.

14. What do bulletproof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers and laser printers have in common? All were invented by women.
15. In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes, the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase...'Goodnight , sleep tight'.
16. It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month, which we know today as the honeymoon.
17. In English pubs, ale is ordered by pints and quarts.. So in old England, when customers got unruly, the bartender would yell at them 'Mind your pints and quarts, and settle down.' It's where we get the phrase 'mind your P's and Q's'.
18. Many years ago in England, pub frequenters had a whistle baked into the rim, or handle, of their ceramic cups. When they needed a refill, they used the whistle to get some service. 'Wet your whistle' is the phrase inspired by this practice.

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**Facebook: Like us on "Townley Church"**