

# “THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

*Monthly Newsletter*

*JULY 2020 / ISSUE 30*

## **PASTOR’S MESSAGE:**

### ***A Functioning Church Member***

<sup>12</sup> For as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body-so also is Christ. <sup>13</sup> For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body-whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free-and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. <sup>14</sup> So the body is not one part but many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot should say, "Because I'm not a hand, I don't belong to the body," in spite of this it still belongs to the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear should say, "Because I'm not an eye, I don't belong to the body," in spite of this it still belongs to the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But now God has placed each one of the parts in one body just as He wanted. <sup>19</sup> And if they were all the same part, where would the body be?<sup>20</sup> Now there are many parts, yet one body. (1 Corinthians 12:12-20)

### **Point 1 - Membership means we are all necessary parts of the whole**

- a. Biblical membership is not the same as culture's definition of membership – think “country club”.
- b. The Biblical definition of membership is found in 1 Cor. 12:27-28, we are “the body of Christ” – his members, for his purposes.

### **Point 2- Membership means we are different, but we still work together**

- a. Each part of the Body has to do its own work
- b. The Body suffers when we fail to do our part - 1 Cor. 12:26

### **Point 3 - Membership means everything we say and do is based on biblical foundation of love**

- a. Biblical definition of love is found in – 1 Cor. 13
- b. We do not love because people are loveable.
- c. Love is the foundation of church membership.

**Point 4– Church membership is functioning membership**

- a. Country club membership (pay your dues) versus biblical church membership (Give abundantly and serve without hesitation)
- b. Biblical membership is a functioning membership – 1 Cor. 12:12-26

**REOPENING UPDATE:** We expect to continue enhanced online worship services until Advent, Sunday, November 29, 2020, subject to re-evaluation on September 6 (pending status of COVID-19). Please contact Pastor Ron with any concerns or questions.

**SUNDAY SERVICE:** Please join us for worship service on Townley Church’s Facebook page at 10:00 a.m. Pastor will email the Sunday bulletin ahead of time. After service, please then join us for fellowship on Zoom.

*Join Zoom Meeting Online:* <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3873278827>

*Or by phone:* 1 929 205 6099    *Meeting ID:* 387 327 8827    *Password:* 1028

**WORSHIP TEAM:** Beginning on Sunday, July 12, 2020 we will have a weekly enhanced online worship service that can be viewed on Facebook at 10:00 a.m. A worship team consisting of the Pastor, Music Director, Lay Leader, Elder-in-Charge, Soloist, and Technician will meet at the church Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. to lead online worship. This worship team will not exceed 10 members on any given day and all safety precautions will be observed. Recorded portions of the service will then be broadcast on Facebook at 10:00 a.m. Please contact Pastor Ron if you would like to be a part of this team.

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

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ELDER-IN-CHARGE</u>	<u>LAY LEADER</u>	<u>COMMUNION</u>
July 5	Lois Tangowski	Kathy Kreie	Linda Zehner
July 12	Carol Gordon	Irene Schoenwalder	
July 19	Janet Sangekar	Bruce Tangowski	
July 26	Carruthers Tumfour	Janet Sangekar	



**Introduction To The Structures of the PC(USA):** <https://youtu.be/cFgXGOLd5RM>

**BIBLEGATEWAY.COM** is a great website to find various bible passages. Give it a try!

**DAILY WORD:** Have you been receiving Pastor Ron's daily Word by his automated telephone call? If not, please contact Pastor Ron. This provides such an inspiration as we go about our day.



**"TIME FOR PRAYER":** Join Pastor Ron and other Townley members in a teleconference on Monday evenings at 5:00 pm (approximately 30 minutes). All may call in to pray and make prayer requests. Dial-in using your phone: 1-717-275-8940. Access Code: 367 0530

**LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH:** It is important to keep the channels of communication open during this time. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your church family if there is anything you need during this difficult time.

**NOTE FROM THE TREASURER:** Townley can now accept secure online donations. Check out the giving button on our website and weekly bulletin. In the weekly bulletin, and below, you will also notice a bar code (QR) which will enable us to donate from our smartphone. These have been provided to us by the Presbyterian Foundation's Online Giving Program. It can accept gifts by debit or credit card, and electronic funds transfer. You can see how easy it is to submit your offering on the secured site. Janet Sangekar and Kathy Kreie are the administrators. They will be able to view and track all donations and deposits made into the Townley bank account. Online giving is a great way to support Townley in a new way.



A **COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund** has been established by our church with monies from the Presbytery. The purpose of this fund is to offset the affect of this deadly virus.

Donations are being accepted to assist the food and shelter needs of the least of these.

**MISSION:** June D. asks everyone to please remember the Connecticut Farms Food Pantry. In lieu of shopping, please consider setting aside \$1.00 per week and mail it to Townley Church for distribution.

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

## WATERCOLOR PAINTING

Hi everyone.

I've been sharing with you some progressive pictures of a watercolor painting I am currently working on Townley Church's website. Since the monthly Salem Roadhouse Café live music shows have closed down due to the COVID-19 situation, I have taken to working more often on some of my other favorite hobbies, art work being one of them.

When this work is finished I will auction it off to raise some charity funds for an organization that the shows were dedicated to this year: the Union County YWCA's Domestic Violence Programs' sub-program, called PALS. (Peace—A Learned Solution) This is a program that helps children who are victims of domestic violence express themselves through therapeutic art, crafts and various creative outlets. Our 2020 mission was to donate the music show funds to this important program.

I will post these periodically as I progress with the work, with narratives about how, what, why with the piece as it develops. Ultimately this will become an online auction through Townley Church to sell the work for the cause.

I hope you enjoy them.

Bruce Tangowski



**UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY:** Are you in need of food, financial assistance, or other support? Join Juanita Ayala Vargas, VP of United Way of Greater Union County and The Community FoodBank of New Jersey to learn how these organizations can help during the COVID-19 crisis. Sign up at <http://bit.ly/UPLlive> at least one hour in advance.

### **SOME FOOT NOTES ON LITURGY**

*Amen:* The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.

*Bulletin:* Your receipt for attending worship service.

*Choir:* A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the congregation to lip-sync.

*Jonah:* The original “Jaws” story.

*Magi:* The most famous trio to attend a baby shower.

*Manger:* Where Mary gave birth to Jesus because Joseph wasn't covered by an HMO. (The Bible's way of showing us that holiday travel has always been rough.)

A poster for a "Community Resources Presentation" held on Tuesday, July 7 at 2 PM. The poster features logos for "LIVE UNITED", "United Way of Greater Union County", and "Community FoodBank of New Jersey". Below the logos, it states: "Learn how these organizations can provide support during the COVID-19 crisis. Sign up at <http://bit.ly/UPLlive> at least one hour in advance." At the bottom, contact information for the Union Public Library is provided: [upnj.org](http://upnj.org), [unionpl@upnj.org](mailto:unionpl@upnj.org), and 908-851-5450.

## Newly elected co-moderators Bentley and Street-Stewart take questions from the press

June 20, 2020 by Jill Duffield

Newly elected co-moderators of the 224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Elona Street-Stewart and Gregory Bentley, took questions at a news conference immediately following their election on the evening of June 20.

They were the only team seeking election from which both candidates were persons of color. Street-Stewart, a ruling elder and the synod executive for the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, is the first Native American to serve as moderator; Bentley, a teaching elder and the pastor of Fellowship Presbyterian Church in Huntsville, Alabama, is African American.

**Substance.** Asked what direction and projects they intend to devote energy to over the next two years, Street-Stewart and Bentley named the PC(USA)'s Matthew 25 Initiative, noting that there's existing momentum and resources to support its three emphases of building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism and eradicating systemic poverty. Bentley cited the need to consider emergent leaders and to seek and discover "resources not yet identified" in that regard. Street-Stewart wants to prioritize "how we are connected" to one another.



**Both Elona Street-Stewart and Gregory Bentley had Zoom backdrops featuring the Sankofa bird.**

**Symbol.** Street-Stewart and Bentley chose the image of the Sankofa bird standing in the Mississippi River as a symbol for their work and call as co-moderators. When asked about this choice of symbol, Bentley explained that the bird flies forward while looking backward. He said this represents their hope to "bring the best of our cultures ... to make the church better." Street-Stewart added that the symbol of water is a sacred one in Native American culture and the Mississippi River connects their synods, lifting up the relationship both between she and Bentley and between African Americans and Native Americans.

**Strength.** When asked to name their respective strengths, Bentley was quick to say that Street-Stewart is "very organized" while he is a "big picture" person. "We need both," he added. Street-Stewart praised Bentley's knowledge and regard for so many who have served the church and said one of her learning curves will be utilizing the tools of social media.

**Social justice.** In response to a question about addressing social justice issues in this unique and truncated General Assembly, both co-moderators noted that the work of social justice is happening at every level of the PC(USA) and needs to be shared and supported over the next two years of their term. Bentley said that the church needs to “do the work in those three areas of Matthew 25.”

**Support.** After sharing that this week they will be headed to Louisville to moderate the rest of the assembly, they responded to a final question: How can the church pray for you? Stewart-Street said: “We don’t want to be stereotyped wherever we go. We are going to go to places where we are unimagined yet ... we aren’t going to fit the profile ... in all places.” She said the whole church needs to be in prayer so that we can name and claim and address those stereotypes. Bentley said that while they are excited, he knows there is a lot to do in a short period of time and therefore, “pray for stamina, perseverance and patience.”

### **PC(USA)- Regarding Ruling Elders: Praying for Others in the Time of Pandemic** **Susan Forshey - June 16, 2020**



Alice was one of the first hospital patients I visited during clinical pastoral education. We chatted about her many grandchildren. Her eyes danced with joy as she talked about Jesus. My own heart ached for such beautiful, joyful faith. I had just finished seminary and while I had been working in churches and teaching about prayer for years, my own prayer life had become an abyss of doubt and questions. The thirst-quenching flow of prayer that I had once enjoyed had dried up and now I stood by the bed of a woman dying of cancer, a wordless and prayerless desert.

When I hesitated to pray with her, she diagnosed the problem immediately. She took my hand and started to pray, effortlessly, the patient becoming the chaplain. She prayed for my ministry and that I would trust God and depend on him for all my needs. Alice modeled that God was already present and prayer simply invited God into our conversation. She taught me that prayer was not about me and my doubts but listening in on God’s love for the world. All I could do was say amen at the end, tearful and thankful. In that moment, her prayer was a flood in the desert and a seed for the future, giving me back my own ability to pray.

That was almost twenty years ago. I still remember standing by her bed like it was yesterday.

We are all mourning the sudden loss of physical connections—handshakes, hugs, fellowship, communion, in-person worship. Prayer is always a good idea, but right now, especially, praying for family, a friend, or congregation member in their hearing or reading—by phone, Zoom, email, or letter—can be a way to cross the distance and communicate God’s love. Your prayer can become for them a reminder of God’s care.

We might wonder: Does prayer work? Does it make a difference?

Jesus modeled that prayer was an integral practice of his life. In Luke 6:12, he spends the night in prayer before calling the disciples; before raising Lazarus (John 11:41–42); for his disciples and future followers (John 17:1–26); before his arrest (Matthew 26:42); and from the cross (Luke 23:34, 46), to list just a few examples. That Jesus took time to pray in the moments of his life, even as the Son of God, suggests that we as disciples are called to a similar practice.

Theologian Marjorie Suchocki's beautiful little book, *In God's Presence*, defines the work of prayer in this way: "God works with the world as it is. Quite simply, prayer changes the 'isness' of the world."<sup>1</sup> Prayer changes the world because the act of prayer changes us and those hearing our prayer. We are each part of the world, and praying opens us, if only for a brief moment, to how God is present and working in the world. That openness can lead to new choices, new ideas, and new hope for the future. It gives God a new world with which to work.

Alice could not have known that her act of praying for me would be remembered, or even now, be shared to encourage your own practice of prayer. Her act planted and watered a seed of prayer that continues to bear fruit in my life and those who hear the story.

Today, I invite you to stop, take a friend's virtual hand, and pray.

And the world has changed!

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