

# “THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

*Monthly Newsletter*  
*JULY 2022*

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

7 James Norton	15 Glenn Zehner
9 Marty Lindner	21 Vyonna Thompson
10 Robert Deller	26 Alfred Obner
10 Carruthers Tumfour	31 Elaine J. Brooks

### PASTOR'S MESSAGE:

#### **LET'S MARK THE FUTURE: TOGETHER**

Over 60 years ago, faithful leaders, in response to God's call, took action to mark Johnsonburg Camp and Retreat Center as a sacred place and an open space. Johnsonburg was established by visionary leaders to provide experiential Christian education in support of the Presbyterian Church in New Jersey. Purchased from the Stevens Institute of Technology, the property was originally used to teach summer engineering courses such as surveying and soil identification and still bears many of the historic, federally-protected markers from that time.

For anyone who has been to Johnsonburg, these identifying markers are still central today to the landscape of this ministry. These small concrete pillars with the stamped plate on top mark space and time on the beautiful 300-acre campus. Fitting it seems, since Johnsonburg has formed itself around programs and a ministry of hospitality focused on gathering in Christian community, finding one's compass in life, and surveying our 'personal maps' by seeking God's call. Johnsonburg is a sacred place, giving those who enter the grounds a place to claim their baptismal identity as God's beloved, sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked as Christ's own.

Today we hear God's call once again, to take action to ensure that this ministry continues to mark generations of leaders. Looking forward, in order to strengthen our programs, form new partnerships and increase our ability to welcome guests year-round, we need to improve the infrastructure that supports our facilities, update existing housing options, and accommodate people of all ages, and upgrade the site areas which support a diversity of program options.

Historically, Townley has made a \$500 annual donation supporting “camperships” to needful youths. This year, in addition to the \$500, Townley will be contributing \$1500 to the camp's Capital Campaign for infrastructure improvements with proceeds coming from our Spring Rummage Sale. Thank you for your contributions of time, talent, and treasure in support of the Rummage Sale enabling our donation to this Johnsonburg project!



**NEW MEMBERS:** We are happy to welcome our four new members:

Francia Bayona  
Jermaine Landrau  
Santiago and Sandra Guzman

**SALEM ROADHOUSE:** The **SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ** presents The Robert Rucker Project on **Saturday, July 9, 2022**. The doors open at 7:30 PM. (*Flier attached.*) The Robert Rucker Project is a mixture of southern blues and classic jazz. This quintet, consisting of drummer Robert Rucker, tenor saxophonist Alex Mincek, trombonist Vince Gardner, pianist Roy Dunlap and bassist Greg Williams, aims to provide and create an unforgettable jazz experience. The quintet, which began several years ago in Florida, has opened for such notables as Nat Adderly and Sam Rivers. Robert appears on Wynton Marsalis' "Amongst the People: Live at the House of Tribes" on Blue Note Records. He is also featured on the soundtrack of the movie "Black or White". As well as an accomplished jazz drummer, Robert is a music teacher and composer and has recorded with many notable artists. He has produced music for Sony Pictures. As always, the Salem Roadhouse Café is live, intimate, up front, and personal. All ages are welcome.

	Join us for Gospel Brunches on Sunday, July 10 <sup>th</sup> , August 14 <sup>th</sup> , and September 11 <sup>th</sup> . These will be services held in Bailey Hall the mornings after Roadhouse performances during the Summer. Let's describe them as: " <i>Good News, Good Music, and Good Food</i> ". Services start at 10:00 AM.
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**A MEMORIAL SERVICE** will be held for Justine Melillo on Sunday, July 17, 2022, following our regular Sunday morning worship service at 11:15 am.

**SESSION MEETINGS:** There are no session meetings scheduled for July and August.

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT:** Will be held on Tuesday, August 2, 2022, from 6:30pm to 8:00pm. Come, bring a friend and let's meet and greet some of our neighbors. We will have live music and ice cream! We are accepting monetary donations for our local food pantry. Don't forget your lawn chair!

**REDEDICATION OF THE MEMORIAL GARDEN:** There will be a rededication of our Memorial Garden on Sunday, September 11, 2022, right after the morning worship service. We will be doing some planting and re-planting between now and then.

**SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS FOR JULY & AUGUST:**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>*ELDER-IN-CHARGE</b>	<b>*LAY LEADER</b>
July 3	Janet Sangekar	Vyonnia Thompson
July 10	Lisa Heims	Carruthers Tumfour
July 17	Irene Schoenwalder	Maryann Cove
July 24	Linda Zehner	Cynthia Manno
July 31	Carruthers Tumfour	Lynn Bailey
August 7	Carol Gordon	Irene Schoenwalder
August 14	Janet Sangekar	Kathy Kreie
August 21	June Donahue	Diane Smith
August 28	Janet Sangekar	Lisa Heims



**\* 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. Also, give yourself enough time to set up prior to worship time.**

**MISSION:** June D. asks everyone to please remember the Connecticut Farms Food Pantry. You are encouraged to support this ministry with a monthly monetary donation of \$4.00— a dollar a week can bring food to an empty pantry.



A check for \$50 will be sent to the Connecticut Farms Food Pantry.

**Spring Rummage Sale:**

Our Spring Rummage Sale was an enormous success! As previously mentioned, some of the sales proceeds will support major project work at Camp Johnsonburg. Special thanks to Glenn and Linda for leading the effort while experiencing personal difficulties. Additional thanks to all who lent a hand or two!



**THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY:** The next Stated Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 17, 2022, 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>

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

**SAVE THE DATE:** This year's Christmas Party will be held on **Saturday, December 10, 2022**, at 5:00 PM. Due to popular request, it was decided to be held again at La Casa Di Martino, 301 West Clay Avenue, Roselle Park, NJ 07204. The price will be \$35.00 per person due to a price increase.



**A NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER**

Your Session appreciates how you have continued to let giving complete your lives. **Your weekly offerings** are accepted Sundays in person or can be mailed 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:



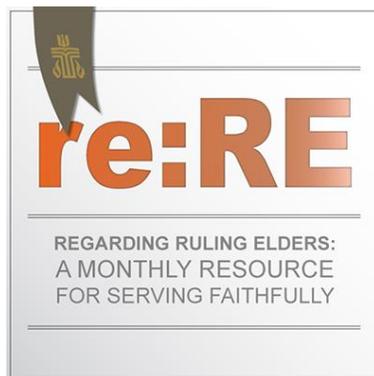
Our church's Donation Page can also be reached using the **Quick Response (QR) Code** below. A QR Code is a two-dimensional, modular barcode that, when scanned by a smart phone (most phones use the camera to do this) will connect you to our Donation Page.



## REGARDING RULING ELDERS: A MONTHLY SERIES FOR SERVING FAITHFULLY

### *Polity Snapshots - Question E by Julie Hester – June 15, 2022*

*Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?*



I've never been a scrapbooker. My older child got two small photo albums of the early years, and the younger got three-fourths of one. The rest of the pictures are in bins. Someday I might organize them, but probably not. I like the way they are all jumbled together, so that when we pull them out we have to ask ourselves "Who is this?" and "When was that?"

My polity memories are all jumbled together in a mental bin too. When I answered this question at my ordination, I honestly didn't know what I was agreeing to — not really. I knew enough polity to pass the exam. I knew how to look questions up in the Book of

Order. But it's only in hindsight — by digging through my mental bin of church memories — that I recognize what it looks like to be "governed by our church's polity" and "abide by its discipline." Some particular pictures emerge.

I recall a summer class at my childhood church where we learned about the candidates for moderator of the 1987 General Assembly. As a teenager I was beginning to explore a call to ministry. I knew a bit about how my local church was governed, but the General Assembly — and the word "polity" — were a mystery to me. Our class straw vote elected Isabel Rogers, who went on to win the actual election. Four years later she would teach me Reformed Theology. I learned from her that as a church we are a covenant community called into being by the grace of God. I began to notice how she and other leaders worked faithfully through the channels of our church government to guide our denomination toward a more just and equitable future. She showed me theology enacted through polity.

Other snapshots come from serving as a commissioner to General Assembly. Being part of my committee's work to amend an overture that was later passed by the whole body was as thrilling as worshiping among the diversity of our denomination gathered together. Some of the votes didn't go the way I wished. Watching how our commitment to polity and order help us navigate tricky issues made me glad to be a Presbyterian, even when the voting went late into the night. My former presbytery used to hand out stickers that said "We are Presbytery." Indeed, we are all General Assembly too.

In my bin are warm polity-related memories in churches: enjoying premeeting dinners with elders, serving communion alongside leaders, sharing faith statements together, and seeing big dreams for our congregation come to pass. I also find memories of heated debate, times of disagreement, and a few moments of broken fellowship. Those snapshots are worth keeping because they remind me how fragile peace can be as well as how resilient churches can be. The moments in our life together that ask us to dialogue about what matters most are also the moments that make us who we must be for the future.

I've got polity snapshots from plenty of presbytery meetings. Many of them run together like an endless amendment process, but some stand out. Matters of discipline involving clergy, committees, and councils are always difficult. Recalling that "discipline" and "disciple" share a Latin root helps me keep my vow to abide by the instruction of our shared polity.

Throughout my bin are pictures of friends who are colleagues in ministry. These are friendships forged through study, prayer and mission. We've sat on hard church pews together, shared creative ideas and institutional problems together, written notes, texts, reports, and curriculum together, and sweated in meetings and on mission sites together. We've shown up for one another in times of joy and sorrow, holding on to what unites us (including our commitment to church polity) rather than stewing over what divides us. Being a friend in ministry means we value and nurture our common life as children of God and disciples of Jesus Christ.

What a question this one is! It covers the wide range of church experiences, from difficult votes to treasured friends, from hard choices in the Rules of Discipline to trust in God's Word and Spirit. Saying "I will" means saving room in your bin for memorable snapshots to come.

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*The Rev. Julie Coffman Hester is a pastor and writer in the [Presbytery of Western North Carolina](#). She is inspired by faithful ruling elders, like her parents, and the remarkable disciples with whom she has served in local congregations.*

**This article is the fifth in a 12-part series focusing on the constitutional questions that church leaders answer upon their ordination and installation, using some of the materials from "Coming Alive in Christ: Training for PC(USA) Ruling Elders and Deacons Based on the Constitutional Questions," which is available through [Equip](#), the church's online training platform.**

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Email: [TownleyChurch@yahoo.com](mailto:TownleyChurch@yahoo.com)    Website: [TownleyChurch.org](http://TownleyChurch.org)  
Facebook: Like us on "Townley Church"**

# SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ

JAZZ featuring....

## ROBERT RUCKER PROJECT

SATURDAY, JULY 9, 8:00 PM

DOORS OPEN AT 7:30 PM ADMISSION: \$20.00 STUDENTS \$15.00

*Admission includes snacks, beverages, tea, coffee & desserts*



Robert Rucker Project- A mixture of southern blues and classic jazz. This quintet consisting of drummer Robert Rucker, tenor saxophonist Alex Mincek, trombonist Vince Gardner, pianist Roy Dunlap and bassist Greg Williams aims to provide and create an unforgettable jazz experience. The quintet, which began several years ago in Florida, has opened up for such notables as Nat Adderly and Sam Rivers.

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Original artwork will be on display at the  
**ROADHOUSE GALLERY OF FINE ARTS**

2022 Show proceeds will benefit  
**YWCA Union County PALS program**

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**  
union county

All shows are featured on UNION TV34's "UNION AFTER DARK" nightly music series  
Plenty of free parking in our two lots and on the street

**SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ @ TOWNLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**829 SALEM ROAD UNION NJ 07083**

PHONE: 908-686-1028 (leave message) E-MAIL: salemroadhouse@gmail.com

WEB: www.townleychurch.org FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/salemroadhouse

# Gospel BRUNCH

Join us on Sunday, July 10th, August 14th, and September 11th. These will be services held in Bailey Hall the mornings after Roadhouse performances during the Summer. Starting time is 10:00 AM.



Good News

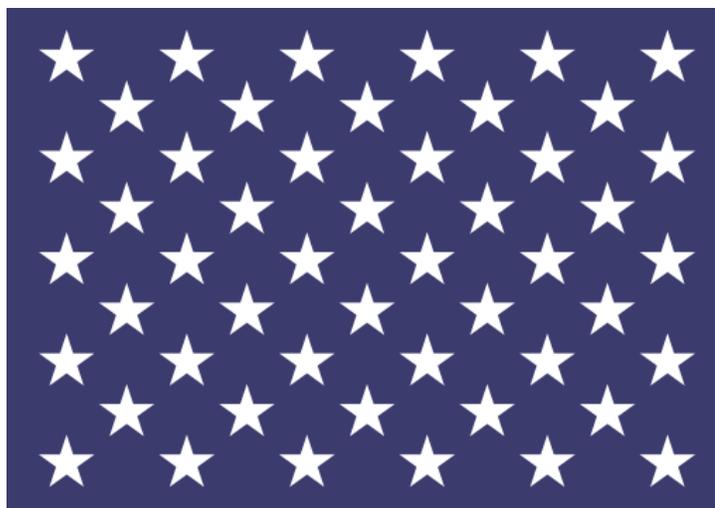


Good Music



Good Food

## FOURTH OF JULY – WORD SEARCH



G R E A T B R I T A I N  
 U N I T E D S T A T E S  
 J K B S B A J O C L U T  
 U L R H E K O X O I P R  
 S A A S C F H D U B S I  
 T D V J V L N C R E Q P  
 I E E O R I H G A R H E

F U K O P X Y Y M U W I T U R O C T E Y X G A R G T R S  
 D E C L A R A T I O N O F I N D E P E N D E N C E Y Z T  
 P H I L A D E L P H I A F I R E W O R K S T C P F S O K  
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 F O U R T H O F J U L Y C O L O N I E S M N K U G R F Y

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|-----------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE | INDEPENDENCE DAY | PHILADELPHIA |
| AMERICAN REVOLUTION         | GREAT BRITAIN    | FREEDOM      |
| LIBERTY                     | JUSTICE          | BRAVE        |
| COURAGE                     | STAR             | STRIPES      |
| FOURTH OF JULY              | UNITED STATES    | FIREWORKS    |
| COLONIES                    | FLAG             | JOHN HANCOCK |