

“THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

Monthly Newsletter
JULY 2024

¹ I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. ² I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Psalm 89

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 Brooks

PASTOR’S MESSAGE:

Steve Huston, Organizing Co-Leader of our presbytery, shared a quote that states, "A legacy isn't something you leave to someone. A legacy is something you leave in someone." Steve reminds us that "each of us, through our faithful actions and words has the power to shape the legacy we leave behind. It's not just about the material possessions or the tangible accomplishments we amass in our lifetimes. Rather, it's about the intangible yet enduring impression we make on the hearts and minds of others." Makes you wonder what will we leave behind?

Recently, several of us Townley folks shared an evening together supporting the Institute of Music for Children. The Institute had a dinner/fundraiser in which several individuals of the community were recognized for the roles that they have played in bringing the Institute’s Capital Expansion to fruition. The theme was: Cherish the Arts - *It Takes a Village*. This is a \$15 million Capital Expansion plan that will enable the Institute to build a state-of-the-art facility with dedicated dance, acting, band and visual arts studios, two piano labs, four practice rooms and a professional recording studio.

I am reminded of the history of the Institute. It began some 30 years ago, as a ministry of the 3rd Westminster Presbyterian Church of Elizabeth. Before coming to Townley, I preached there twice. The church was without a pastor and only few members remained of what was once a merger of three churches. At that time, I could not imagine what their legacy would be. Since then, the church closed, and the membership was dissolved. What did remain and what became their legacy was the Institute of Music for Children. An organization which is now in the process of developing its own legacy.

The legacy of 3rd Westminster lives on not only in what they achieved, but in the lives they touched and the values they instilled. The Institute is an attestation of that legacy. Steve Hudson reminds us that we are entrusted with a sacred responsibility to cultivate a legacy that enriches and empowers those who follow in our footsteps. Who will follow in Townley’s footsteps? During this Season after Pentecost, know that the Holy Spirit is still active in our

church. Know that the Holy Spirit continues to enlighten our understanding of God’s Word and Will. Perhaps our legacy is not known at this time. But I agree with what Steve concludes, “our actions today sow the seeds of a legacy that will endure far beyond our time”. We can make a positive contribution to those who will follow us, for it does *Take a Village*.

SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>*ELDER-IN-CHARGE</u>	<u>*LAY LEADER</u>	<u>COMMUNION</u>
July 7	Lisa Heims	Santiago Guzman	Lisa & Santiago
July 14	Marty Lindner	Vyonna Thompson	
July 21	Linda Zehner	Diane Smith	
July 28	Janet Sangekar	Lynn Bailey	
August 4	Carol Gordon	Lisa Heims	Carol & Lisa
August 11	Karen Brelowski	Kathy Kreie	
August 18	Janet Sangekar	Irene Schoenwalder	
August 25	Lois Tangowski	Karen Brelowski	



*** 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.



- July 7 – Cecelia Harrison
- July 14 – Linda Zehner
- July 21 – Diane Smith
- July 28 – Elaine J. Brooks

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.

SESSION MEETING: The next session meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 21, 2024.** at 7:30 pm in the upstairs meeting room. (Session meetings are usually held the 3rd Wednesday of each month.)



BOOK DONATION BIN – The Book Donation Bin is now at the end of our Salem Road parking lot! All books must be in good readable condition and have an ISBN barcode on the cover. Hardcover, Paperback and Textbooks are all welcome. No Encyclopedias, Magazines or water damaged books can be accepted. Your donation helps raise funds for Church Mission projects and Church repairs. For more information or if you wish to purchase books, please visit: NewLegacyBooks.com.

SESSION WORKS



“Session Works” is a monthly communication of significant decisions made by Townley Session. From **June’s** meeting, the following items were approved/discussed:

- Cause of Book Bin relocation
- National Night Out (Tuesday, August 6) – participation at town event
- The Formation Conundrum (Are We Really Being Discipled at Church?) Homework assigned
- Discussed Fall Rummage Sale alternatives

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

GOSPEL BRUNCHES: Join us for Gospel Brunches on **Sunday, July 14th, August 11,** and **September 15th.** “Good News, Good Music, and Good Food.” Services start at 10:00 AM.

THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY: The next meeting of the Presbytery is scheduled for **Saturday, September 21, 2024**, from 9:00 am to 11:30 am via Zoom. Website <https://pnenj.org>



THE SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ – Presents the Mark Adamy Band on **Saturday, July 13, 2024, at 8:00 pm.** Doors will open at 7:30 pm. As always, the Salem Roadhouse Café is lively, intimate, up front, and personal. All ages are welcome. See attached flier.

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.

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.



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.



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). Away or missed a service? Catch our Livestream!

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN:

Townley Church needs help to fund several significant repairs. We appreciate your donations to our "Cherish The Church" Capital Improvement Campaign.



DONATE TO HELP RENOVATE



Help Us Reach Our Goal !



Online



Locally

Donations are tax deductible

NOTE FROM YOUR TREASURER: Our Cherish the Church Fund amount is **\$28,104**. Our goal had been to raise \$50,000 in 18 months (June 2024). These funds have been used for our many capital improvements over the past year and a half. Thank you to all who have donated to help us climb towards our goal! Even though this campaign has drawn to a close, please continue to give serious consideration towards making further contributions earmarked for our church property maintenance.

We received and forwarded a \$500 donation to the Camp Johnsonburg Scholarship Fund.

REGARDING RULING ELDERS: A MONTHLY SERIES FOR SERVING FAITHFULLY

Embracing Change and Growth
By Valerie Izumi – June 14, 2024



Ruling elder Dustin Wilsor declared, "I love to preach! It was my first call. I am definitely called to preach!" He continued with a quote from one of his seminary professors:

"You live your life homiletically. As you witness the world around you, you are figuring out how that intersects with Scripture."

In addition to obtaining a Master of Divinity degree, Wilsor also earned a Master's in Theology and the Arts. His research focused on the theology of musical theater, resulting in his thesis entitled "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord." He says that theater in general, but musical theater to an exponential degree, is the only art form where the audience changes the art. Because every time you see a show, it is different.

He related a story about a time he filled in, preaching for a friend who was ill. Though the friend encouraged him to select a Scripture passage with which he was more comfortable, Wilsor, not one to turn away from a challenge, chose the same one his friend had selected. It took some time for reflection, and he had very little time, but Wilsor finally realized that the crux of the message was that change is inevitable and it's vital to embrace change. He was relieved as he had written about *that* before!

It is often difficult to adapt a previously-written and preached sermon, because each one is so timely — speaking to a particular moment in the culture. And, of course, culture moves forward; it inevitably moves on.

So, he wrote a sermon about — sourdough!

Why sourdough? Wilsor explained that sourdough grows; it grows on its own. Sourdough is constantly changing, as it is a living organism — a mixture of yeast and bacteria. Leave it on the counter and it grows; it changes and it expands, to "the north and to the south, into the east and to the west." Because of this, you've got to take a part of the sourdough starter and

discard it before baking, or better yet give it away. Sourdough cultures continue to rise, sour, and mature.

When asked about how it came to be that Wilsor was called to serve as a ruling elder, he shared that he always knew that at some point, when the time was right, he would be asked to serve in that way. He was very active in his congregation's Community Engagement Committee, which was engaged with social justice, so it wasn't a shock when the nominating committee at Woodland Park Presbyterian Church approached him.

Ultimately, Wilsor wants to effect positive change in the church. "But if you want to effect real positive change, you have to be able to see the world bigger. That's what being a ruling elder has given me. Because I was on session, I was called to serve as a commissioner to presbytery. Then while I was active in presbytery, I was asked to serve on different committees there, and I got to know people, to see other churches, to see my space get larger. Then I was called to serve as a commissioner to the General Assembly, and now I see my space even larger. Otherwise, I don't think I would have seen it."

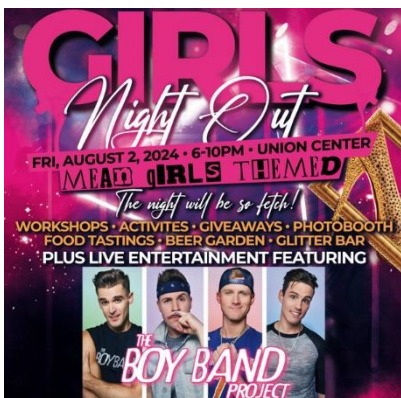
COMMUNITY NEWS

Union's Annual Summer Concert Series



All concerts are open to the public and are free of charge. They will be held in Biertufempfel Park on Thursdays from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Blankets and chairs are recommended. Food trucks will be on-site.

- Thursday, July 4 – Mission Dance Band
- Thursday, July 11 – Four Sticks. Music of Led Zeppelin.
- Thursday, July 18 – 80's Revolution. The Band. The Music.
- Thursday, July 25 – Xtreme Queen. The Legacy of Freddie Mercury



Union's Girl's Night Out

This year's event is scheduled for Friday, August 2, from 6 to 10 p.m. in Union Center. The event will include a photo booth, giveaways, a beer garden, workshops, a glitter bar, food tastings, and a live performance featuring The Boy Band Project. Girl's Night Out will be "Mean Girls" themed - the night will be so fetch!

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"