“THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

Monthly Newsletter
JULY 2026

Proverbs 2:6-8
New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition
6 For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; 7 he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk blamelessly, 8 guarding the paths of justice and preserving the way of his faithful ones.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

9 – Marty Lindner
10 – Robert Deller
10 – Carruthers Tumfour
14 – Khary Wilson
15 – Glenn Zehner
21 – Vyonnia Thompson
31 – Elaine J. Brooks

PASTOR’S MESSAGE:

From the Tartan Army in Boston to team Algerian being adopted by a small town in Kansas, my favorite stories to emerge from the FIFA World Cup have nothing to do with the matches themselves. It has been so much fun to see the stories of visitors from around the world expressing surprise at what they experienced in the United States. Many arrived expecting a nation divided, hostile, and suspicious of outsiders. Instead, they found strangers offering directions, restaurant recommendations (from BBQ to Costco hotdogs), conversations on trains, and warm welcomes in cities across the country.

It is a reminder of an important truth, headlines rarely tell the whole story and the loudest voices are not always the most representative. We know the algorithms behind our news feeds and social media prioritize conflict because it attracts attention. In the same way that the media can shape the way people view the US by the stories they choose to tell, the same can be true of the church.

Many people's perceptions of Christianity have been shaped by headlines, scandals, political arguments, or painful personal experiences. Before they ever meet a follower of Jesus, they may already believe they know what Christians are like. Let's wait and see what stories get highlighted from our own General Assembly this week.

In light of this reality, what if our response is not to complain about being misunderstood but choosing to live so faithfully that people's experience of us and the church challenges their assumptions. Peter urged believers to "live such good lives among the nations" that even those who misunderstood them would eventually see the reality of God's work (1 Peter 2:12).

Reputations are not changed by verbal arguments nearly as much as they are by lived encounters. Every conversation, every act of hospitality, every moment of grace becomes an opportunity for someone to say, "This isn't what I expected."

Perhaps that is one of the church's greatest reminders today. We are not called simply to defend the gospel, but to embody it. To become communities where preconceived ideas give way to unexpected grace, where fear is replaced by welcome, and where people discover that Jesus is far more beautiful than the caricatures they have come to believe. In the end, the most powerful witness is not proving the headlines wrong. It is giving people a better story to tell.

Steve Huston -- Organizing Co-Leader/ Resource Presbyter PNENJ

SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS:

DATE	*ELDER-IN-CHARGE	*LAY LEADER	COMMUNION
July 5	Janet Sangekar	Irene Schoenwalder	Janet & Irene
July 12	Carol Gordon	Bruce Tangowski	
July 19	Karen Brelowski	Irene Schoenwalder	
July 26	Lois Tangowski	Diane Smith	
August 2	Kathy Kreie	Tonya Moses	Kathy & Tonya
August 9	Feret Fenelus	Cynthia Manno	
August 16	Marty Lindner	Nisha Beech	
August 23	Tonya Moses	Lynn Bailey	
August 30	Irene Schoenwalder	Lilian Nwosu	

* 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 5 – Thelma Eneberi
July 12 – Cecelia Harrison
July 19 – Linda Zehner
July 26 – Pastor Ron

GOSPEL BRUNCHES ARE BACK! As in previous summers, we have taken advantage of a few Sundays after our monthly Roadhouse shows to have our worship services held in Bailey Hall. This summer those Gospel Brunches will be held on **Sundays, July 12 and August 9.** Please come join us for these nice and cozy "coffee house setting" worship services. Juice, coffee and a delicious brunch will be served.

YOUTH SUNDAYS: We will be celebrating our young people during worship services on the **4th Sunday** of every month. Something new to look forward to!

CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION: ***The Blessing Room*** is open to Union County residents **who need**

essential items. Patrons should park in the rear lot and enter through the rear door. We will have clothing and small household items available for distribution at no cost. Patrons should bring proof of residence and bag(s) will be supplied to carry out their items. The Townley Blessing Room is the location where a ministry dedicated to providing essential items to individuals and families in need takes place. Townley acts as the conduit. As God blesses Townley, we bless others.

- On June 6 we had 28 guests visit our Blessing Room.
- There are volunteer opportunities to help with the Blessing Room. If interested, please see Janet or Diane.

The Blessing Room will be open on the **1st Saturday of each month** from **9 am to 11 am**. in the Chapel Basement. Set up and last-minute sorting will start at 8:00 am that morning. Donations and volunteers will continue to be needed. Our next distribution date will be **August 1st. There will be no distribution in July.**

WEDNESDAY NOON BIBLE STUDY: Have concluded their study on the Book of Revelation. Activities are being planned for Wednesday evenings at 7 pm during the summer.

Activity Night Schedule

July 15	**Movie**	**August 5**	**Game**
July 22	**Game**	**August 12**	**Movie**
July 29	**Movie**	**August26**	**Game**

SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ - Presents "Sad About Girls" on **Saturday, July 11, 2026**. The doors open at 7:15pm, the show starts at 8:00pm. Admission is $20 for adults, and $15 for students, which includes show, snacks, non-alcoholic beverages and desserts. Show proceeds this year will benefit Townley Church's Blessing Room, a place where needed items find their way into the hands of those in need. The Blessing Room operates in coordination with local and county governments and agencies, to provide clothing and small household items that are needed most by families and individuals.

NURSING HOME VISITATION: Our nursing home ministry is held at AristaCare, located at 400 W. Stimpson Avenue in Linden every **second Sunday** at 2:00pm each month. Please see Pastor Ron if you are interested in being a part of this ministry.

RAFAEL'S LIFE HOUSE BABY SHOWER: Townley Church will partner with Connecticut Farms Church in sponsoring a Baby Shower for expectant mothers at Raphael's Life House in Elizabeth this fall. If you wish to donate an unwrapped new item for the baby shower, please write your name next to that item on the master sign-up sheet posted on the kitchen refrigerator in Bailey Hall. For example, if you wish to donate two items, pleased write your name on two separate lines. (We want to make sure each of the 12 residents receive the same number of gifts.) Cash donations are also welcome. Please bring your gifts and or cash donations to Lisa or Janet by September 13, 2026. Lisa and Janet will purchase additional gifts with your cash donations, wrap all the gifts, and represent Townley Church at the baby shower on September 30. If you have any questions, please contact them.

What is Raphael's Life House?

Raphael's Life House is a transitional housing program designed to support young pregnant women and mothers who are experiencing homelessness. The program provides a safe, structured living environment where residents can stay for an extended period (typically up to 12–18 months) while working toward independence. The program focuses on helping residents build stable, self-sufficient lives by offering a range of supportive services. These include parenting and prenatal education, life skills development (such as budgeting and self-sufficiency), job readiness training, and connections to educational opportunities. Each resident typically has a private living space for herself and her child, along with access to shared community areas. Staff provide ongoing case management and guidance, helping residents set goals, secure employment or education, and eventually transition into permanent housing. Overall, Raphael's Life House aims to empower young mothers by providing not just shelter, but the tools, support, and resources needed to create long-term stability for themselves and their children.

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.

THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY: The next meeting of the Presbytery is scheduled for **Saturday, November 14, 2026,** at 9:30am – 11:30am In-Person only. Location to be announced. Website: https://pnenj.org

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:

- **Wine policy:** Motion passed to allow wine only at the Townley Church Christmas dinner party, in Bailey Hall, for 2026 only — no other events included.
- **Christmas party location:** Event to be held at the church (Bailey Hall) on Saturday, December 12, 2026, shifting from external venues.
- **Scouting America Partnership:** An open house is planned for late July/August, with formal kickoff targeting September school start.
- **Institute of Music for Children Summer Camp:** Bailey Hall booked Monday–Thursday, 1–3 PM and Friday 8-noon for 6 weeks starting June 29.
- **T-Mobile:** Final check received for June; PSE&G pulled the electric meter, signaling project completion.

SESSION MEETING: The next Session meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 19, 2026,** at 7:30 pm in **Bailey Hall**. Please note there is no meeting in July. (Session meetings are usually held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.)

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

SCOUTING AMERICA: Scouting offers youth the opportunity to learn more about themselves in a fun and safe environment, giving them the skills they need to succeed at every stage of their lives. The Patriots' Path Council proudly serves more than 11,000 youth members and more than 4,000 volunteer leaders in the New Jersey counties of Middlesex, Morris, Somerset, Sussex, and Union. We invite boys and girls to join Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouts or Exploring. The council is welcoming and accessible to all youth and their families regardless of interests, abilities or economic resources.

NEW LEGACY BOOKS: All book donations must be in good readable condition and have an ISBN barcode on the cover. 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.

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.

There are volunteer opportunities to help with this food pantry. If interested, please contact Janet or Diane.

We recently received and forwarded $300 in donations to the Connecticut Farms Food Pantry. Year-to-date, we have now received and forwarded $650 in donations.

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.

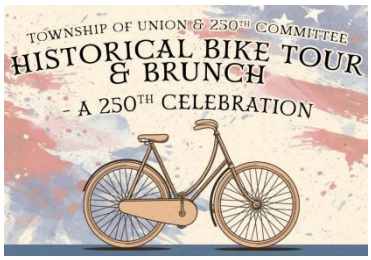
WE HAVE A FACEBOOK PAGE! "Like" our Facebook page (http://www.facebook.com/TownleyChurch) to get the latest updates on your wall. Share your Townley comments, photos, and videos. If you want pictures added or notices posted, please send an email to the church office (townleychurch@yahoo.com). Away or missed a service? Catch our Livestream!

COMMUNITY NEWS

THE MARKET AT UNION – June 4, 2026 – September 24, 2026

The Market at Union will return to 1980 Morris Avenue on June 4 through September 24 for its 2026 season, bringing weekly vendors, food trucks and local businesses back to the Union Arts Center lot. The market will be open Thursdays from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Vendors scheduled to appear include Wagner Family Farm, The Union Sourdough Co., Chlorophyll & Chill and Roots to Press. Food trucks and prepared-food vendors will also rotate throughout the season. Participating businesses include Cousins Maine Lobster, Amaras Caribbean BBQ, Urban Dog and Gustosa Food Truck. Dessert and beverage vendors include Little Snow Bites, Rachie's Bakery and Pine Acres Lemonade. Other vendors include Vittle Paws, which sells freeze-dried dog treats, and Mystic Moon Sticker, which offers handmade keychains and apparel. Parking will be available in front of and behind Town Hall.

HISTORICAL BIKE TOUR & BRUNCH – A 250TH CELEBRATION – SATURDAY, JULY 4



On **Saturday, July 4, 2026** from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM there will ba 12-mile guided Historical Bike Tour starting at Connecticut FarmsPresbyterian Church at 888 Stuyvesant Ave., Union. The route is suitable for cyclists of all fitness levels, who can ride at their own pace with a police escort. Following the ride, participants will be treated to a catered brunch featuring "The Connecticut Farm" as the signature sandwich.

4th of JULY CELEBRATION

We are proud to invite residents to the Annual Fourth of July Spectacular taking place at Biertuempfel Park on July 4th! Rain date July 5th. The night will kick off at 7:30pm with a concert featuring The UpTown Band, who play high-energy music, followed by a fireworks display.

UNION WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUMMER SERIES

Starting on Wednesday, July 8, 2026 from 6:30 PM — 8:00 PM there will be Live music, DJ's, Karaoke, Lawn games, and inflatables at Union Center on Stuyvesant Ave., Union, NJ. Local businesses will host pop-ups and sidewalk sales, and restaurants will offer special promotions.

FITNESS IN THE PLAZA

On **Saturday, July 11, 2026** there will be "Fitness at the Plaza" outdoor workout series. Designed to promote health, wellness, and community engagement, from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM outside the DMK Black Box Theater at 1980 Morris Ave., Union. Featuring: The MAX Challenge; Sana Yoga; Zumba with Jaz; Latin Dance with Mind, Body, and Movement; Club Pilates; Pilates x Three; and Octagon Health Training. All classes are held completely outdoors on the open-air plaza. Participants are required to bring their own personal yoga mats to each session. Complimentary cold bottled water will be provided on-site to ensure all attendees stay safe and properly hydrated. Because sessions are outdoors, all classes are subject to modification or cancellation in the event of inclement weather.

Vintage Baseball Game to Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary in Union

Residents will have the opportunity to experience baseball as it was played more than 160 years ago during a vintage baseball game at Biertumpfel Park (located on Winslow Avenue) on **Saturday, July 25**. The Township of Union Planning Committee is hosting the event as part of the community's celebration of the nation's 250th anniversary. The game begins at noon and will feature the 1859 Hoboken Baseball Club taking on the Union Fire Department using the rules and customs of the 1860s. Admission and parking are free. Spectators are encouraged to bring lawn chairs for seating. Food and refreshments will be available for purchase from The Hot Dog Guys and Cold Stone Creamery.

Crossword Puzzle Answers

Across
3. Flag
5. Courage
6. England
7. Liberty
8. Revolution
10. Independence
11. Philadelphia
13. United States
14. JohnHancock

Down
1. Washington
2. PaulRevere
4. Freedom
5. Colonies
9. Constitution
12. Justice

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