

“THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

Monthly Newsletter
JUNE 2023

“¹³The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. 2 Corinthians 13:13”

***JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

2 June C. Donohue
5 Nancy Segale
10 Lynn Bailey
16 Bruce Tangowski
21 Cynthia Manno

*Members, if you haven't seen your birthday listed here, and would like to have it included, please send an email to Cecelia with your birthday month and day to: CeceliaH@comcast.net

PASTOR'S MESSAGE:

Family Matters

Summer, for some, is a time for family reunions. Family reunions can be fun and fulfilling for most of us. For others, they are uncomfortable or even painful. Let's admit it, we all have some dysfunction in our families! We all have stories about our families that we'd rather not tell. In the stories from the Book of Genesis, we discover that God's chosen family had struggles, secrets, sibling rivalries, murder and threats of murder. Many of us explored some of these rich and ancient stories during a recent study of *“The Flawed Family of God”*. We were able to see how God works through and in spite of family dysfunction to bring about God's purposes for the world. This definitely lets us see the hope for God's presence and movement in our own families.

Since ***Family Matters***, I do want to take the opportunity to talk about family in all its many dimensions and forms. I realize that it is important not to talk about family in a way that excludes those who are single, divorced, or in families that don't conform to the “Mom, Dad, two kids, and a dog” model. The Book of Genesis does depict a variety of different images of families, both happy and unhappy. Expect to hear a few sermons during this Summer from Genesis. Perhaps they might open us up to telling some of our family stories when we gather together. Sharing stories of God's presence through our forebears is worth the time. We might even begin planning a follow up event to our Family, Friends & Children's Day. Some sort of ending the summer with a “God's Family Reunion” picnic gathering is not out of the question. ***Family Matters!***



OUTDOOR CONCERT: Mark Adamy will entertain us on **Friday, June 2**. Time is 6:30-8:30 PM. Snacks and water will be provided. Please bring a chair and enjoy the music! See attached flier.

FAMILY, FRIENDS & CHILDREN'S DAY – will be held on **Sunday, June 4th** Luncheon to follow service. See Lisa Heims for more information.

Gospel Brunch

Join us for Gospel Brunches on **Sunday, June 11th, July 9th** and **September 10th**. These will be services held in Bailey Hall the mornings after our Summer Roadhouse performances. Let's describe them as: "Good News, Good Music, and Good Food". Services start at 10:00 AM.

SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS FOR JUNE AND JULY:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>*ELDER-IN-CHARGE</u>	<u>*LAY LEADER</u>	<u>COMMUNION</u>
June 4	Janet Sangekar	Bruce Tangowski	Janet S. & Bruce T.
June 11	Lisa Heims	Vyonnia Thompson	
June 18	Irene Schoenwalder	Diane Smith	
June 25	Linda Zehner	Irene Schoenwalder	
July 2	Marty Lindner	Carruthers Tumfour	Marty L. & Carruthers T.
July 9	Linda Zehner	Cynthia Manno	
July 16	Carruthers Tumfour	Lynn Bailey	
July 23	Carol Gordon	Lisa Heims	
July 30	Karen Brelowski	Kathy Kreie	



*** 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.**



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. This is the current schedule:

- June 4 – Family, Friends and Children's Day Lunch
- June 11 – Elaine
- June 18 - Lynn

SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ – presents the Stephen Fuller Quintet on **Saturday, June 10, 2023**, in Bailey Hall. The doors open at 7:15 PM. Show starts at 8:00 PM. Admission is \$20 for adults and \$15 for students. Admission includes a show, snacks, non-alcoholic beverages, and dessert. The Roadhouse operates as a non-profit that raises funds for several carefully chosen local charities. The show proceeds for 2023 will benefit Townley Church Missions. As always, the Salem Roadhouse Café is live, intimate, up front, and personal. All ages are welcome. See attached flier.



FUND RAISER: We will be having a fundraiser with the help of **Proud Papas at 470 Chestnut Street** in Union. On **Tuesday, June 13, 2023**, please mention Townley Church while ordering. Then 10% of those sales will go to Townley Church for our "Cherish the Church" Fund. Let Proud Papas do the cooking for you on Tuesday, June 13!

SESSION MEETING: The next session meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 21, 2023**, at 7:30 pm in the upstairs meeting room. (Session meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month.) There will be **no session meeting in July**. August session meeting has been moved to **Wednesday, August 23, 2023** (4th Wednesday).

SESSION WORKS



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

- Thank You Letter from Zion Lutheran (Operation Warm Heart)
- Letter concerning Calvin Linden’s closure
- Reports from Task Forces
- Programing for Day of Pentecost
- Programing for Friends and Family Day
- Proud Papas Fund Raiser
- Session Summer Meeting Schedule
- Fall Rummage Sale Date

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

TOWNLEY COMMUNITY GROUP



The “Townley Community Group” is meeting on Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30 PM in the Prayer Room. The group is having a meaningful discussion of a book entitled “Weird Church – Welcome to the Twenty-First Century.” Utilizing Spiral Dynamics as a means of framing the current changes in North American culture, Nixon and Estock give a thrilling forecast of where the church is going as we race toward the mid-century. All are welcome to join the discussion and fellowship – snacks included! See Francia, Sandra, Santiago, or Pastor Ron for more info.

TOWNLEY WEDNESDAY NOONTIME BIBLE STUDY



The Bible Study resumed on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at Noon in Bailey Hall. We are discussing “Weird Church – Welcome to the Twenty-First Century.” Utilizing Spiral Dynamics as a means of framing the current changes in North American culture, Nixon and Estock give a thrilling forecast of where the church is going as we race toward the mid-century. All are welcome to join the discussion. Please see Pastor Ron for more info.



PRESBYTERY OF
NORTHEAST
NEW JERSEY

THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY:

The next meeting of the Presbytery is scheduled for Saturday, September 16, 2023. Website <https://pnenj.org>

CHRISTMAS PARTY: SAVE THE DATE! This year’s Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, **December 9, 2023**, at 5:00 PM. Due to popular demand, it will again be held at La Casa Di Martino. 301 West Clay Avenue, Roselle Park, NJ 07204.

MISSION: Townley Church has been part of a team delivering and serving dinner to Operation Warm Heart guests at Zion Lutheran Church in Rahway. The final serving took place on April 21. We received a letter of thanks.



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.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT: Cherish the Church Fund is up to **\$11,953.**

Our Cherish the Church Fund Thermometer tracks the donations received toward our goal of \$50,000 to be raised in 18 months. These funds are to be used for our capital improvements. A red mailbox to accept donations and the thermometer are posted in Bailey Hall. Special envelopes, designed by Kathy Kreie, are next to the mailbox. It is hoped that donations will not only come from our congregation but will be received from the support groups and others that may use our facilities. Thank you, Janet, Church Treasurer

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE: Our Spring Rummage Sale was a great success! Rummage sale profit was \$4,393. A check was sent to the Music Institute for Children in the amount of \$440.

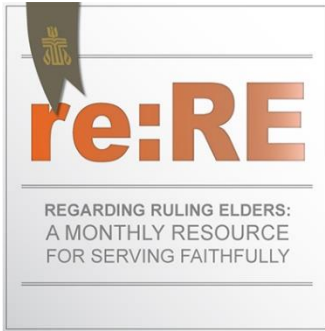


FALL RUMMAGE SALE: We will be having a Fall Rummage Sale. The tentative dates are October 6 and 7.

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

REGARDING RULING ELDERS: A MONTHLY SERIES FOR SERVING FAITHFULLY

Taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation by Marissa Galván-Valle - May 15, 2023



In the Book of Order, members are called upon to be involved in the ministry of Christ’s Church in a variety of ways, including by “proclaiming the good news in word and deed” and “taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation” (G-1.0304). In our minds we could probably categorize church activities into these two separate areas, but for ruling elders, these sentences encompass—wholistically—our responsibility to serve as leaders of the congregation.

Ruling elders “have responsibilities for the life of the congregation” (G-2.0301). They are “called to nurture the common life of the people of God through their gifts of discernment and governance,” and

“make provision for the regular preaching of the Word and celebration of the Sacraments, corporate prayer, and the offering of praise to God in song; oversee and approve all public worship in the congregation, with the exception of responsibilities reserved for the minister of the Word and Sacrament; determine occasions, days, times, and places for worship; and have responsibility for the arrangement of worship space, the use of special appointments (flowers, candles, banners, paraments, and other objects), and the ministries of music, drama, dance, and visual arts” (W-2.0303).

These responsibilities call for ruling elders to be able to understand and evaluate the connections between worship and the common life of the church. For example, your church might provide an amazing worship experience on Sunday mornings but also may need to reflect on why people are not taking part in “extra-liturgical” activities. A church’s vitality and impact goes beyond what happens in worship. Worship can be the heart of the gathered congregation, but what is the church’s body doing the rest of the time? How are you being the hands and feet of Christ in the world? These are important questions for the leadership of the church.

There is a connection between *common* and *communion*, a sacrament that is such an important part of the worship experience of Christ’s people. We usually think of the sacraments as a particularly sacred and special time during worship. But in the New Testament, sharing a meal often occurs beyond a scheduled time and place. In her article [“The Lord’s Feast,”](#) Melva Wilson Costen states that “the Gospels report Jesus’ common eating and drinking with people from various walks of life, making such events worthy of remembrance.” She also says that “Communion is understood as a common participation in a divine Christian life that a person lives in Christ, because it is initiated by Christ.”

Worship and common life are connected in the common meals, sitting around a common table. Communion goes beyond Sunday mornings and encompasses all we do as a congregation and as Christians in our everyday lives. To live in Christ there needs to be an understanding that our lives are not compartmentalized between what happens in worship and what happens the rest of the time.

In a "Being Reformed" study called "Ruling Elders: Transformation," Peggy Hinds calls sessions to understand the connection between worship and the common life of the congregation. She points to something she calls "Boardroom Table Dynamics." She shares her experience of a tension between having more time for worship during a session meeting and the desire to get down to the business at hand, praying and then moving on. She shares these words of wisdom:

"Approaching the session's work as a board meeting puts elders in business mode. It is easy to forget that the work is sacred and that the purpose is to serve and honor God. The boardroom table calls us to focus on covering the agenda; the communion table invites us to remember Christ and to be his body. By remembering who Christ is and who we are called to be, we approach the session's work with humility, grace, and gratitude" (p. 20).

Worship calls us to remember Christ and to celebrate that Christ understands us and we need to understand him. The common life of the church should also create spaces to do the same and to be his body. Sometimes connecting both allows us to remember the familiar, as when we sing "Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are filled with your glory." But sometimes it reminds us that Jesus' values and actions challenge the status quo and the messages of the systems, societies, promotions, and cultures that surround us. Both are important.

Marissa Galván-Valle is a minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). She is the senior editor for Spanish Language Resources in the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation and temporary pastor at Beechmont Presbyterian Church, an intercultural church that worships each Sunday in Spanish and English. She was ordained as a ruling elder when she was 21 years old.

Throughout 2023 and 2024, monthly Regarding Ruling Elders articles will alternate between a deep dive into the ways ruling elders discern and measure the life of a congregation through the ministry of members and stories about how ruling elders are using their call and gifts as they move within and beyond the walls of the congregation.

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Office:(908) 686-1028 / Email: TownleyChurch@yahoo.com
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**FIGGERIT ANSWER: LIVE YOUR LIFE IN SUCH A WAY THAT YOU
WOULDN'T BE ASHAMED TO SELL THE FAMILY PARROT TO THE
TOWN GOSSIP. (By Will Rogers. Figgirit by Ceceilia H.)**

FIGGERIT

CLUES:

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY TO HAVE A _____ . I'LL PACK A BASKET WITH A
20 2 12 10 2 12

HAM _____ , SOME _____ COOKIES, AND A SMALL
11 14 10 17 15 2 12 13 18 7 16 16 4 8

_____ OF COFFEE. MAYBE I'LL ALSO _____ A KITE AND THEN _____ A
12 7 20 9 1 5 8 4 14 17

BOOK. TONIGHT I WANT TO GO TO THE THEATER TO SEE A _____ , AND MAYBE
19 6 3 2 4

VISIT THE ART _____ NEXT DOOR.
21 14 1 1 4 8 5

MESSAGE:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 1 2 9 4 2 10 11 7 12 13 14

15 14 5 16 13 14 16 5 6 7 15 6 7 1 17 10 16 18 4

14 11 13 14 19 4 17 16 6 11 4 1 1 16 13 4

9 14 19 2 1 5 20 14 8 8 6 16 16 6 16 13 4

16 6 15 10 21 6 11 11 2 20

HOLY HUMOR

One afternoon while hiking, Thomas stumbled and fell over the side of a steep cliff. Before he hit bottom, however, he managed to grab hold of a tree branch. Dangling precariously over the canyon, he shouted, "Lord, can you hear me?"

"Yes, my son," replied the Lord, "I can hear you."

"Can you help me?" the man cried.

"Of course! Said the Lord. "Just let go of the branch and I'll catch you."

Thomas thought for a moment, lifted his eyes to heaven, and pleaded: "Lord, can anyone else hear me?"
(From: "Hey! Christians Have a Sense of Humor, too! By Patricia Mitchell)

FREE CONCERT

FRIDAY, JUNE 2 6:30pm –8:30 PM

ON THE LAWN

@ **TOWNLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

829 SALEM ROAD, UNION, NJ 07208

Featuring—

THE MARK ADAMY BAND



Mark Adamy is a multitalented keyboardist and vocalist who works with artists around the globe as a live performer and recording artist. This includes his own band: The Mark Adamy Band, which is a group of accomplished musicians that has thrilled listeners with its original stylings fusing pop, rock, jazz, R&B, world, and spiritual music.



FREE WILL OFFERINGS WILL BE ACCEPTED AND ENCOURAGED TO SUPPORT THE TOWNLEY CHURCH MISSION PROJECTS

for info, call 908-686-1028 (leave a callback #)

OR email at salemroadhouse@gmail.com

SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ

JAZZ featuring.....

STEPHEN FULLER QUINTET

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 8:00 PM

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

Admission includes snacks, beverages, tea, coffee & desserts



Stephen Fuller's deep rich voice and soulful renditions have long made him a favorite with sophisticated audiences around the world; performing in Israel, Jamaica, Costa Rica and The US Virgin Islands. In addition to his overseas engagements, Fuller has also performed in renowned New York City and New Jersey venues and opened for both Stevie Wonder and Bill Withers while attending Colgate University.

Stephen will perform at the Roadhouse with his quintet. Last year he did a total calypso show which got the audience totally involved and thrilled. Stephen has always been top notch entertainment.

This show he's working on some special treats for us.

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

*2022 Show proceeds will benefit
Townley Church Missions*

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
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