

“THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2020 / ISSUE 26

PASTOR’S MESSAGE:

MEMBERS MATTER

Your Session is encouraged to take stock of the congregation on annual basis. They ponder what gifts, passions, and skills each member brings as assets for ministry. This is necessary so that our church may engage in the emerging needs and opportunities for service beyond the church walls, as well as within the congregation. This kind of annual assessment contributes to congregational vitality.

Matthew 25 defines congregational vitality as its spiritual strength and its capacity for purposeful mission. It is evident in a worshipping community when its structural systems, finances and discipleship practices are aligned in such a way that the community is actively engaged in the mission of God in their local community and the world. Vital congregations are powerfully focused on growing as disciples in the way of Jesus Christ. *Members Matter*. Let’s take a look at what our Book of Order has to say about members.

CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP [G-1.04]

The membership of a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) includes baptized members, active members, and affiliate members.

G-1.0401 Baptized Member

A baptized member is a person who has received the Sacrament of Baptism, whether in this congregation or elsewhere, and who has been enrolled as a baptized member by the session but who has not made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Such baptized members receive the pastoral care and instruction of the church and may participate in the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper.

G-1.0402 Active Member

An active member is a person who has made a profession of faith in Christ, has been baptized, has been received into membership of the church, has voluntarily submitted to the government of this church, and *participates in the church’s work and worship*. In addition, active members participate in the governance of the church and may be elected to ordered ministry (see G-2.0102). *Active members shall regularly, after prayerful consideration, recommit themselves to the disciplines and responsibilities of membership outlined in G-1.0304*. The session shall have responsibility for preparing those who would become active members of the congregation.

G-1.0403 Affiliate Member

An affiliate member is a member of another congregation of this denomination or of another denomination or Christian body, who has temporarily moved from the community where the congregation of membership is situated, has presented a certificate of good standing from the appropriate council or governing body of that congregation, and has been received by the session as an affiliate member. An affiliate member may participate in the life of the congregation in the same manner as an active member except that an affiliate member may not vote in congregational meetings or be elected to ordered ministry or other office in the congregation.

G-1.0404 Other Participants

Persons who are not members of, *or who may have ceased active participation* in, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are welcome and may participate in the life and worship of this church and receive its pastoral care and instruction. The invitation to the Lord's Supper is extended to all who have been baptized, remembering that access to the table is not a right conferred upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love (W-3.0409). Confessing members of other Christian churches may present children for baptism, in conformity with W-3.0403.

While the Book of Order quantifies three categories of membership, it also includes an *Other Participants* grouping. However, our emphasis should be on the Active Member. Again, the Book of Order provides the substance. Note the usage of present participles, indicating a progressive aspect:

The Ministry of Members [G-1.0304]

Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ's mission. A faithful member bears witness to God's love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ's Church. Such involvement includes:

- *proclaiming* the good news in word and deed,
- *taking part* in the common life and worship of a congregation,
- *lifting one another* up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support,
- *studying* Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life,
- *supporting* the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents,
- *demonstrating* a new quality of life within and through the church,
- *responding* to God's activity in the world through service to others,
- *living responsibly* in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life,
- *working* in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment,
- *caring* for God's creation,

- *participating* in the governing responsibilities of the church,
- and *reviewing and evaluating* regularly the integrity of one’s membership,
- and *considering* ways in which one’s participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful.

Bottom line: an active you, matters.

2020 SESSION LEADERS AND COMMITTEES:

<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>VOCATION</u>
Budget	Congregational Care	Bible Study
Buildings & Grounds	Evangelism	Christian Education
Finances	Fellowship	Confirmation Classes
Personnel	Mission	Leadership Development
Stewardship	Newsletter	Music
	Outreach Social Concerns	Sunday School
	Roadhouse	Worship
	Social Media/Audio Visual	Youth Activities
<u>SESSION LEADERS (RULING ELDERS):</u>		
<u>Chair:</u> Irene Schoenwalder	<u>Chair:</u> June Donohue	<u>Co-Chairs:</u> Lynn Bailey & Diane Smith
Tom Catalano	Cecelia Harrison	
Feret Fenelus	Lois Tangowski	
Janet Sangekar	Linda Zehner	

DEFINITION OF RULING ELDER FROM THE BOOK OF ORDER (G-2.0301)

“As there were in Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in discernment of God’s Spirit and governance of God’s people. Accordingly, congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling elders are so named not because they “lord it over” the congregation (Matt. 20:25), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. Ruling elders, together with ministers of word and sacrament, exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships.”

NEW NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE – from choir (1): Lynn B.; from congregation (3): Kathie K., Lisa H., Barbara H.; from session (2): Cecelia H., and Linda Z.

SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS FOR MARCH:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ELDER-IN-CHARGE</u>	<u>LAY LEADER</u>	<u>COMMUNION</u>
March 1	Lois Tangowski	Laurie Parnau	Linda Zehner
March 8	Carol Gordon	Maryanne Cove	
March 15	Janet Sangekar	Tom Catalano	
March 22	Carruthers Tumfour	Cynthia Manno	
March 29	Tom Catalano	Kathy Kreie	

LAY LEADER: If you would like to serve as a lay leader during worship service, please contact Lynn B. or Diane S.

March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 First Sunday in Lent; Holy Communion	2	3	4 Bible Study 6:30 PM	5	6	7 Operation Warm Heart 1- 3:00 PM Zion Lutheran Rahway
8 Second Sunday in Lent; Delaire Service 2:00 PM	9	10	11 Bible Study 6:30 PM	12	13	14 Road House 8:00 PM
15 Third Sunday in Lent	16	17	18 Session Meeting 7:30 PM	19	20	21 Operation Warm Heart 1- 3:00 PM Zion Lutheran Rahway
22 Forth Sunday in Lent	23 Operation Warm Heart 6- 8:00 PM Zion Lutheran Rahway	24	25 Bible Study 6:30 PM	26	27	28
29 Fifth Sunday in Lent	30 Operation Warm Heart 6- 8:00 PM Zion Lutheran Rahway	31				

BIBLE STUDY: Resumes **Wednesday, March 4 at 6:30 PM.** Please join us as we explore Lent from the Matthew 25 vantage point!

FOOD BANK SUNDAY: Townley's Program Task Force is spearheading a Food Bank Sunday, where on **each 4th Sunday** they will receive donations of non-perishable food items to contribute to the Connecticut Farms Food Pantry. We are asking our members to support this initiative by giving one non-perishable food item (or \$1) per week. Kindly drop off your items in the Food Box in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!



OPERATION WARM HEART: During the coldest months, December to March, the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless sponsors an emergency shelter program called Operation Warm Heart. With the help of local churches and community groups, up to 14 homeless individuals are given clothing, toiletries, a hot meal and a warm bed each night of the week. Volunteers to help cook meals, provide hospitality or sort donations to make personal kits for each guest are always needed. Townley has recently partnered with Zion Lutheran Church at 215 Elm Ave., in Rahway to continue this ministry in providing temporary overnight shelter for these individuals.

Would you be interested in spending some time (perhaps playing cards or sharing an interest) with these guests from **1:00 to 3:00 PM on Saturday, March 7 and/or Saturday, March 21.**

Would you be interested in greeting and serving an evening meal to these guests from **6:00 to 8:00 PM on Monday, March 23 and/or Monday, March 30.**

Please let Pastor Ron know what dates you are available. You need not volunteer for all dates. Thank you!

NURSING HOME SERVICE: Join us, on **second Sundays**, at the Delaire Nursing and Convalescent Center at 2:00 PM for a brief worship service with the shut-ins. All are welcome. Address: 400 W Stimpson Ave, Linden, NJ.

2020 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: This is an ecumenical celebration of informed prayer and prayerful action. This prayer service written by the women of Zimbabwe, invites us to explore Jesus' encounter with a person, who, although positioned for healing, does not act upon the opportunities given (John 5:2-9a). The theme is Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk. This service is sponsored by Linden Interfaith council at Greater Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, 24 East 14th Street, Linden on **Sunday, March 8 at 3:00 PM.**

IMPLICIT BIAS TRAINING: To be held on **Wednesday, March 11th from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM** at the Presbyterian Church of Livingston, 271 West Northfield Road, Livingston, NJ. This is a one-day training where you will learn and discuss concepts to help build frameworks and mental maps that enable us to engage in equity and cultural proficiency work, then you will apply key learnings to our own contexts. Finally, you will reflect on how both the concepts and the application might help to build Christ's Kin-dom in our communities. If interested, register where indicated on The Presbytery of Elizabeth website.

NEWSLETTER: If you have any items that you would like to have included in April's (monthly) newsletter, please either text them to cell # 908-868-6579 or email them to CeceliaH@comcast.net by **Sunday, March 22.** Please include your name. I hope to hear from you! Cecelia

KEEPING AN OPEN HEART IN TROUBLED TIMES: This workshop, led by Rev. Deborah van Deusen Hunsinger, PhD., addresses the challenge of keeping your heart open with compassion while witnessing so much suffering in and around us. Date is: **Saturday, March 14 from 9 AM to 3 PM** at Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, 716 Watchung Ave., Plainfield, NJ. Breakfast is served at 8:30 AM, and lunch is included. Suggested Donation is \$20. If interested, register by March 10 by calling the Crescent church office at 908-756-2468 or emailing pastor@crescentonline.org.

SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ: On **Saturday, March 14, from 8:00 PM to 10:30 PM** the Salem Roadhouse Café will feature Carrie Jackson and her Quartet. Carrie has performed at Salem Roadhouse many times since its inaugural show, and has always brought fantastic entertainment and music to the events. She brings her clear, unique jazz vocal styles to life from the golden era of jazz vocals to contemporary hits. Carrie is accompanied by the areas' finest jazz musicians: Radam Schwartz on organ, Charlie Sigler on guitar, and Gordon Lane on drums. Original artwork will be on display. Doors open at 7:30 PM. Admission is \$20 for adults and \$15 for students. Admission includes snacks, beverages, tea, coffee and desserts. 2020 Show proceeds will benefit YWCA Union County PALS program.

PRESBYTERIES MINGLING DINNER PARTY: Join the Presbyteries of Newark, Elizabeth, and Palisades for a fun night out to get to know one another as we embark on a new journey of faith. The event will be held at the Montclair Art Museum, 3 South Mountain Ave., Montclair, NJ on **Saturday, March 14 from 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM**. Dinner will be served.



There is on-site parking. If interested, register by Friday, March 6 at <https://newarkpresbytery.org/events/lets-get-to-know-one-another>. There is no charge for this event; however, should you wish to make a free-will offering, a basket will be available.

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE: Session has approved **Friday, May 8, 2020 from 9:00 am – 6:00 pm** and **Saturday, May 9, 2020 from 9:00 am – 12:00 noon** as sale days for our spring rummage sale. Save the date! Table setup for sale is Saturday, May 2, 2020 at 10 am. Setup for sale is May 4 – 7, 2020 from 10:30 am – 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm. Cleanup begins Saturday, May 9, 2020 at 12 noon.



UNION COUNTY INTERFAITH COORDINATING COUNCIL: Save the Date! **Wednesday, April 22, 2020 from 5 PM to 8 PM** at Suburban Golf Club, 1730 Morris Ave., Union. ***Faith in Action*** – This is a great opportunity to meet representatives from a variety of houses of worship within Union County and learn what they're all about. Light refreshments will be provided. Stay tuned for upcoming information about the featured guest speakers!

FAMILY AND FRIENDS DAY – will be held on **Sunday, June 7**.

TOWNLEY'S 80TH ANNIVERSARY – will be celebrated on **Sunday, November 8**. (*Our actual inception date is November 3, 1940.*)