

# “THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

*Monthly Newsletter*  
**MARCH 2026**

*“<sup>20</sup> and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God,<sup>[a]</sup> who loved me and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20*

## **PASTOR’S MESSAGE:**

**Lent: What is it and what to do?**

Lent is a significant time of reflection and spiritual growth for all Christians. It is a season that provides an opportunity for us to deepen our faith and draw closer to God. During this time, we engage in various practices and observances that help us focus on our relationship with God and prepare our hearts for the celebration of Easter.

Lent is a period of forty days, excluding Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. This duration symbolizes the forty days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness before beginning his ministry. It is a time of self-examination, repentance, and renewal, as we seek to align our lives with the teachings of Christ.

One of the central practices during Lent is prayer. **Prayer** is a way to communicate with God, to seek His guidance, and to express gratitude for His blessings. During Lent, the intentional focus on prayer helps us to deepen our relationship with God and to discern His will for our lives. Have you been praying? If not, begin right now.

Another important aspect of Lent is fasting. **Fasting** involves abstaining from certain foods or activities as a way of redirecting one’s attention towards God. It is a practice that helps us to detach ourselves from worldly distractions and to focus on our spiritual journey. While some choose to fast from specific foods or habits, others may fast from technology or social media. The purpose of fasting is not to punish oneself but rather to create space for God to work in one’s life.

In addition to prayer and fasting, engage in **acts of service and giving** during Lent. This is a time when we are encouraged to reach out to those in need, to show compassion, and to practice generosity. The Townley Blessing Room is one such opportunity. By serving others, we seek to emulate the selfless love of Christ and to make a positive impact in our community.

Lent is also a time to engage in **Bible study and reflection**. A Lenten Devotional Guide is available to help dive deeper into the Scriptures, to meditate on the life and teachings of Jesus, and to apply biblical principles to your daily life. Through this intentional study and reflection, we seek to grow in our understanding of God’s Word and to live out our faith more fully.

As Lent comes to a close, we celebrate Holy Week, which commemorates the final week of Jesus’ life, leading up to his crucifixion and resurrection. This is a time of intense reflection and worship, as we remember the sacrifice of Christ and the hope of his resurrection. Holy Week services include special liturgies, hymns, and readings that help us to enter into the profound significance of these events.

In conclusion, Lent holds great meaning for us as a season of reflection, spiritual growth, and preparation for Easter. Through practices of prayer, fasting, service, and Bible study, we seek to deepen our faith and draw closer to God. Lent is a time to refocus one’s heart and mind on the life and teachings of Jesus, and to align one’s life with His example of love and sacrifice. As we journey through Lent, we are reminded of the hope and joy that comes with the resurrection of Christ, and are encouraged to live out our faith in a way that brings glory to God.

## **Inclement Weather**

No doubt, winter is here. In the event of a significant winter storm, you will be contacted via telephone/text/email as to whether the church will be open for worship service. If the church is not open, please join in on our Facebook Livestream at 10 AM.

## Morning Message

A short, less than 60 second, message of scripture and encouragement is available for members and friends. Text Pastor Ron – 908 477-4706 if you are interested.

### SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>*ELDER-IN-CHARGE</u>	<u>*LAY LEADER</u>	<u>COMMUNION</u>
March 1	Janet Sangekar	Lynn Bailey	Janet & Lynn
March 8	Carol Gordon	Vyonna Thompson	
March 15	Karen Brelowski	Cynthia Manno	
March 22	Lois Tangowski	Kathy Kreie	
March 29	Irene Schoenwalder	Lisa Heims	
April 5	Kathy Kreie	Diane Smith	Kathy & Diane
April 12	Lisa Heims	Irene Schoenwalder	
April 19	Marty Lindner	Karen Brelowski	
April 26	Linda Zehner	Irene Schoenwalder	

\* 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.

March 1 – Kathy Kreie and Lisa Heims  
March 8 – Lois and Bruce Tangowski  
March 15  
March 22  
March 29

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:** During the month of February, we welcomed Carlos and Yvette Otero and Khary and Elisha Wilson-Beech with their daughters Journey and Karma as new members to our congregation. Welcome!

**CLERK OF SESSION:** Lois Tangowski was welcomed as the Clerk of Session as of January 1, 2026.

**INSTALLATION CEREMONY:** We installed Karen Brelowski, Feret Fenelus, Merle Lyte and Bruce Tangowski as Ruling Elders on Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> during worship service.

### SESSION MEMBERS:

#### **CLASS OF 2026**

Lisa Heims

#### **CLASS OF 2027**

Lynn Bailey  
Bill Jensen  
Tonya Moses

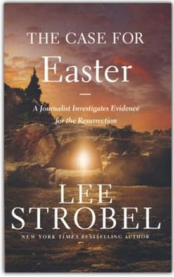
#### **CLASS OF 2028**

Karen Brelowski  
Feret Fenelus  
Merle Lyte  
Bruce Tangowski

### TOWNLEY CORPORATION OFFICERS:

President:	Cynthia Manno
Treasurer:	Janet Sangekar
Financial Secretary:	Kathy Kreie
Secretary:	Lois Tangowski

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



**BIBLE STUDY:** Join us on **Wednesdays** at noon. We will be starting the *2026 Lenten Devotional* and the book “*The Case for Easter*” by Lee Strobel on **Wednesday, February 25**. “*The Case for Easter*” is written in a hard-hitting, journalistic style. The book probes the core issues of the resurrection. Jesus Christ, risen from the dead: superstitious myth or life-changing reality? The evidence is in. The verdict is up to you.

**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 household items available for distribution at no cost. Patrons should bring proof of residence and bag(s) 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.

*The Blessing Room* will be open on the **1<sup>st</sup> 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. Upcoming distribution dates are **March 7<sup>th</sup> & April 4<sup>th</sup>**.

**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.

**SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ –** Presents Monroe Quinn Trio and the Pillars of Praise children’s choir on **Saturday, March 14, 2026**. The doors open at 7:30pm, the show starts at 8pm. Admission is \$20 and includes show, snacks, non-alcoholic beverages, and dessert. Show proceeds this year will benefit Townley Church’s Blessing Room, a place where needed items find their way into the hands of needful people. 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.

Salem Roadhouse Café will be holding a free lawn concert on **Saturday, May 30, 2026**. If it rains, the outdoor concert will be moved into Bailey Hall or the Sanctuary. Volunteers will be needed. Please contact Bruce if you are able to volunteer.

**SESSION MEETING:** The next Session meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 18, 2026**, at 7:30 pm **via Zoom**. (Session meetings are usually held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.)

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING:** Townley Church will once again be participating with other Presbyterians in One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). People all over the world suffer from hunger, poverty, natural disasters, and many other hardships. Donations to OGHS gives assistance and hope to people facing these challenging situations. It provides a way to share God’s love with people in need. A special envelope will be provided for One Great Hour of Sharing and this offering will be collected on **Palm Sunday, March 29 and Easter Sunday, April 5**. Thank you! Mission Division.

**SPRING RUMMAGE SALE:** is scheduled for **Friday, May 22 & Saturday, May 23, 2026**.

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

**PER CAPITA:** The Board of Trustees of the Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey presented the Presbytery's budget for 2026. The budget includes Per Capita received from its congregations. This money is used to develop programs, such as training for congregations and its leaders and supporting the work of Commission on Ministry. **Townley's Per Capita for 2026 is \$37.00 per member.** Please submit your check for this amount payable to Townley Presbyterian Church. We look forward to your participation in per capita giving, an expression of your commitment to ministry both within our congregation and beyond. Thank you. Janet, Church Treasurer

**SESSION WORKS** "Session Works" is a monthly communication of significant decisions made by Townley Session. From **February's** meeting, the following items were approved / discussed:



- ✓ Task Force Reports
- ✓ Letter of Appreciation from CF Food Pantry
- ✓ Potential Rain Date for May 30 Concert
- ✓ Approved membership of Khary and Elisha Wilson-Beech and their daughters Journey and Karma
- ✓ Worshipful Work: Role of Elders in Worship

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

**NEW LEGACY BOOKS:** We received \$40.00 for January 2026.

**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.

Townley Church collected and recently sent \$350.00 to Connecticut Farms Church for their food pantry. Thank you to everyone who donated! We received a letter of thanks from Connecticut Farms Church for our donation.

**THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY:** The next meeting of the Presbytery is scheduled for **Saturday, May 30, 2026**, at 9:30am – 11:30am In-Person only at: True Light Presbyterian Church, 18 Essex Rd., Paramus, NJ 07652. Website: <https://pnenj.org>



**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](http://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](mailto:townleychurch@yahoo.com)). Away or missed a service? Catch our Livestream!

## COMMUNITY NEWS



### **PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE – April 1, 2026 – May 2, 2026**

History comes to life in 1776, the Tony winning musical that brings the story behind the creation of the Declaration of Independence to the stage with witty satire, compelling drama, and a thrilling score. With music and lyrics by Sherman Edwards and book by Peter Stone, 1776 follows John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and their fellow delegates as they navigate fiery debates, political tensions, and personal conflicts in their struggle to unite thirteen colonies.

### **Paper Mill Playhouse - Coming up in 2026:**

“West Side Story” – May 28, 2026, through June 28, 2026



### **UNION TO HOST ‘CRAIC AGUS CEOL’ IRISH HERITAGE NIGHT AHEAD OF ST. PATRICK’S DAY PARADE**

As the Union County Saint Patrick’s Day Parade approaches, organizers are inviting the community to celebrate Irish heritage with an evening of culture, music and art at “Craic agus Ceol” on **Tuesday, March 10** at 6 pm at the Union Arts Center located at 1980 Morris Ave., Union. The evening will feature a live traditional Irish music session in the DMK Black Box Theater at the Union Arts Center where the performers will share insights about their

instruments and the history of traditional Irish tunes. In addition to the live music, the Art Gallery will showcase local art and photography exploring personal journeys to Ireland, often referred to as the Emerald Isle. Complimentary light bites, refreshments and a champagne toast will be provided. Space is limited. Those interested in attending are asked to RSVP to Sully at [gabbysully15@gmail.com](mailto:gabbysully15@gmail.com) 908-265-1478 to reserve a spot. The Union County Saint Patrick's Day Parade kicks off on **Saturday, March 14**, at 1 p.m. at the intersection of Morris and Jeanette Avenues, Union.

### **UNION'S DMK BLACK BOX THEATER TO HOST HOLA AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL “QUARTER RICAN”.**

Quarter Rican, the HOLA Award-winning hip-hop musical, will take the stage at the DMK Black Box Theater, 1980 Morris Avenue on **April 17, 18, 23, 24, and 25** at 7p.m. and Sunday matinées on **April 19** and 16 at 1 p.m. The production explores the heartfelt realities of modern parenthood and cultural identity. The book was written by Gabriel Diego Hernandez, with music and lyrics by Rachel Elmer an Gabriel Diego Hernandez. The show is recommended for audiences ages 13 and older. To purchase tickets, click [HERE](#).

**THE UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY** will host a full slate of educational and cultural programs throughout March, including an art demonstration, financial literacy workshop, local history talk and wellness classes. Most programs are free, though registration is required for select events and seating is limited. To see the full slate of programs visit website: <https://www.tapinto.net/towns/union>

***Townley Presbyterian Church, 829 Salem Road, Union, NJ 07083***

***Office:(908) 686-1028 Email: [TownleyChurch@yahoo.com](mailto:TownleyChurch@yahoo.com) Website: [TownleyChurch.org](http://TownleyChurch.org)***

***Facebook: Like us on “Townley Church”***

# **CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION**

AT THE  
TOWNLEY BLESSING ROOM  
829 SALEM ROAD

**March 7, 2026**

**9:00 – 11:00 AM**

Parking and entrance located behind the church (off Huguenot St.)

**Who is eligible?**

County residents

**What should you bring?**

Proof of residence

A bag to carry your items

***A ministry in which needed items reach the hands of those in need. We offer clothing to families and individuals in our surrounding community on a monthly basis.***

Salem  
**Roadhouse**  
Cafe PRESENTS...

# MONROE QUINN TRIO

*With opening performance by the PILLARS OF PRAISE children's choir*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 7:40 PM DOORS OPEN AT 7:15 PM**

**ADMISSION: \$20 STUDENTS \$15.00**

*Admission includes snacks, beverages, teas, coffee and desserts*



This show is for those who love straight-up jazz, brought to it's simplest form with guitar, stand-up bass and drums. Don't let the "simple" term fool you, as the precision and intricate sophistication of the music come straight through with no masks covering up the melodies.

The Monroe Quinn Trio has delighted audiences in the tri-state area with performances of music ranging from the American Songbook to jazz arrangements of pop classics and original works. Monroe is joined by bassist Jose Rodriguez and Michael Advensky on drums.

Clean, straight-up jazz, presented in a warm, classic style nightclub setting is the perfect combination where this incredible music can be heard clearly with no distractions in the "Listening Room" style that has become synonymous with the Roadhouse experience.

*A special opening act featuring the "PILLARS OF PRAISE children's choir will be featured*

***2026 Show proceeds will benefit the TOWNLEY CHURCH "BLESSING ROOM"***  
***A ministry in which needed items reach the hands of those in need.***

All shows are featured on UNION TV's "ROADHOUSE UNPLUGGED" 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

WEBSITE: [www.townleychurch.org](http://www.townleychurch.org) FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/salemroadhouse](http://www.facebook.com/salemroadhouse)

# 2026 Easter Plant Sale



Qty \_\_\_\_\_ Easter Lily.....\$15.00  
Qty \_\_\_\_\_ Tulips.....\$15.00

**In Memory of** \_\_\_\_\_  
**In Honor of** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Donated by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please put completed form with payment in the collection plate or give to Janet by Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> .**