

**“THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”
Monthly Newsletter**

MAY 2021

MAY BIRTHDAYS

10 Agnes Tumfour
14 Nadine Pusey

PASTOR’S MESSAGE:

New Bible Study Starting May 5th



Lies My Preacher Told Me: An Honest Look at the Old Testament will be our resource for this upcoming study. In it, Brent Strawn addresses ten common “lies” or mistruths about the Old Testament, from perceptions of God’s personality (the “angry Old Testament God”) to the relevance of the Old Testament for Christians. Discover why stories and laws written thousands of years ago, centuries before Christ, are enriching and indispensable for modern Christians. It is easy reading and good for group discussion. Bottom line, it will expand our thinking about some of the Old Testament’s content. See me for a copy of the book.

Re-opening Continues

Palm Sunday marked a return to in-person worship services for those who are able. Many of us have already received the vaccination for the Covid virus and felt comfortable making the return. May I encourage you to “get the shot” if you have not done so. This will aid in getting us back to the communion and service we desire. We will also continue to broadcast services on Facebook. Meanwhile, in returning to the building we must adhere to the following guidelines while in the building:

- Masks covering nose and mouth must be worn.
- Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the building.
- Maintain 6 feet between yourself and others.
- NO handshakes or hugs.
- An Offering Box is available at the rear of the sanctuary.
- All words for hymns and readings will be printed.
- A Song Leader is in place for now, choir or congregational singing is not recommended.
- As the weather improves, feel free to mingle in the parking lot area.

CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF EDNA



The Bailey and Dougherty families ask you to join us in a Celebration of the Life of Edna P. Bailey on Saturday, July 31st at 11 am at Townley Presbyterian Church. There will be a visitation on Friday, July 30th from 7 pm to 9 pm at the Church, as well as the following morning before the Service from 9:45 to 10:45. Your memories are welcomed during the Service.

WORSHIP TEAM: A worship team consisting of the Pastor, Music Director, Lay Leader, Elder-in-Charge, Song Leader, and Sound/video Technicians will continue to meet at the church on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am to livestream our worship services. This worship team follows all safety precautions. Please contact Pastor Ron if you would like to be a part of this team.

SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS FOR MAY: Pastor Ron is asking those assigned for their assistance, if you are not considered high risk, as we resume our in-person worship services.

Please arrive by 9:15.

<u>DATE</u>	* <u>**ELDER-IN-CHARGE</u>	* <u>LAY LEADER</u>
MAY 2	Carruthers Tumfour	Maryanne Cove
MAY 9	Kathy Kreie	Cynthia Manno
MAY 16	Carol Gordon	Lynn Bailey
MAY 23	June Donohue	Irene Schoenwalder
MAY 30	Feret Fenelus	Kathy Kreie
JUNE 6	Lois Tangowski	Lisa Heims



* 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 that upcoming month's newsletter.

****Please see back of newsletter for the updated Elder-in-Charge Duties Checklist.**

"TIME FOR PRAYER": We are praying by teleconference on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm. All may call in to pray and/or make prayer requests: Dial-in using your phone: 1 717-275-8940. Access code: 367 0530

MISSION: June D. asks everyone to please remember the Connecticut Farms Food Pantry. While donations of non-perishable items can be accepted on Sunday mornings at 11:00AM, you are encouraged to support this ministry with a monthly monetary donation of \$4.00– a dollar a week can bring food to an empty pantry. Please mail it to Townley Church for distribution.



Additional mission project: We will be providing socks (and winter socks, gloves and hats in the fall) to the homeless. Those who wish to participate are asked to purchase these items and place them in

the outside container by the church office doors (near our 9/11 garden). The items will be given to Operation Warm Heart for distribution to the homeless. As of March 17, 2021 we had 14 personal care packs that were collected and delivered.

OPERATION WARM HEART: Is currently at full capacity with 16 people enrolled. Some additional ways to support the program would be to provide: cleaning supplies, garbage bags, laundry detergent, shelf safe milk, napkins, utensils, cereal packs, paper towels, toilet tissue, bar soap, liquid soap, snacks, individual cases of water, and cell phone minutes. Please give items to Pastor Ron to deliver.

MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT DATED APRIL 14, 2021: Mission received \$50 in the past month for our food pantry. We received a thank you letter from Connecticut Farms for our previous donation to their food pantry. The food pantry and collecting items for the homeless are ongoing missions. Mission Chairperson, June Donohue

SAVE THE DATE – For our Christmas Party on Friday, December 10, 2021 at 6:00pm. Cost will be \$30.00 per person. Reservations are required. Lisa Heims

A NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

Your Session sincerely appreciates how you have continued to let giving complete your lives.

Please continue to **mail your weekly offerings** to the church office. **Bill Pay and other online banking** options should also be considered. Online contributions may also be made through our church’s website “**Give Now**” button:



Our church’s Donation Page can also be reached using the **Quick Response (QR) Code** below. A QR Code is a two-dimensional, modular barcode that, when scanned by a smart phone (most phones use the camera to do this) will connect you to our Donation Page.



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

TOWNLEY BOOK CLUB: Our next book is *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah. This book is a novel of love, heroism and hope that takes place during the Dust Bowl era of the Great Depression. Thank you, Carol Gordon for the suggestion. We will discuss it on Monday, June 14, 2021. Meeting details will be announced as the date approaches. Cecelia Harrison



THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTH EAST NEW JERSEY: The next Stated Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 8, 2021 via Zoom. The legal address of our new Presbytery is 340 West Passaic Street, 3rd Floor, Rochelle Park, New Jersey 07662. Sign up by Subscribing on website <https://pnenj.org/> to receive news and updates.



CASA GIFT CARD DRIVE: Last year more than 1,500 children were placed in foster care in Essex County alone. These children, ranging in age from birth to 21 years old, were removed from their homes as a result of abuse, abandonment or neglect. CASA of Essex County (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children) promotes the welfare of these children by providing a safety net of support, advocacy and mentorship. One of the areas where there is a great need of support is

amongst the youth ages 16+. At this age, they are often learning to live on their own.

To address this need, the Community Ministries Team is partnering with CASA Essex County to sponsor a gift card drive for foster youth in our local area. Gift cards would help fill the gaps to purchase necessities such as food, clothing and personal items.

[Click here to contribute to this cause.](#) (Checks may also be mailed to the Presbytery Office - please email hello@newarkpresbytery.org to let us know to expect the donation.)

2021 WORSHIP AND MUSIC CONFERENCES AT MONTREAT: The conference theme is Gathered in My Name. BOTH in-person AND online options will be offered! The conference includes classes for all interests: musicians, pastors, educators, and church members - anyone interested in collaborative worship. [Register Now!](#)



In-Person Conference Dates:
Week 1: June 20 - 25, 2021
Week 2: June 27 - July 2, 2021

Online Conference Dates:
June 27 - July 2, 2021

REGARDING RULING ELDERS: A MONTHLY SERIES FOR SERVING FAITHFULLY

Leaders See by Rodger Nishioka – April 15, 2021

Each of us has a deep and profound need to be seen. That truth has never been more real to me than when a young white man shot and killed eight people, six of whom were Asian American women, in Atlanta recently. Those deaths brought into clear focus the dramatic rise of anti-Asian hatred across our country.

I am a fourth-generation Japanese American. I was born in Honolulu. My parents were both born in California. Their parents, my grandparents, were born either in California or in Hawaii. It was my great-grandparents who emigrated from Japan to the United States. We have been Americans for more than 150 years. Yet we, like many other Asian Americans, are viewed as “perpetual foreigners.”

It is one thing to live in a large metropolitan area with many other Asian American faces. It is another thing to live in the Midwest where there are fewer of us around. So it was particularly moving for me when I was walking to church in the week following the shootings in Atlanta, and I saw an older white woman, who was out walking her dog, approaching me. I remembered seeing her on earlier walks. As I came closer to her, I stepped off the sidewalk to walk in the street (COVID protocol). She smiled at me and nodded her head. I waved and said “good morning” and kept walking. Then I heard her say, “Excuse me.” I stopped and turned around. She was standing there with her dog and said, “I really don’t know you, but I see you walking. I just wanted to say that I am glad you’re here, and I am so sad about what happened in Atlanta, and I hope you’re okay.” And standing there on that bright, sunny morning, in this neighborhood near my church, I started to cry. “Thank you,” I said, when I could get the words out. “Thank you so much for your kindness.”

Each of us has a deep and profound need to be seen. Jesus did just that. Jesus saw people. He saw the leper and the paralyzed man. He saw the child and the widow. He saw the pharisee and the rich young ruler. He saw them all.

Leaders see. Leaders see people carefully, thoughtfully, and clearly, so much so that each person knows they have been seen. It is far too easy, especially in these days as the pace of our lives begins to pick up, for us to get too focused on our tasks, our errands, so that we do not see the people whom God has placed before us. People need to be seen. Good leaders see.

Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka serves as the senior associate pastor and director of adult faith formation at Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, Kansas. Prior to joining the staff at Village Church, he served as a professor of Christian education at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia.

This article is the **fourth** in a 12-part series focusing on PC(USA) leader formation as a part of the Year of Leader Formation: Investing in Ruling Elders and Deacons. Additional resources are available at www.pcusa.org/leader-formation/. Past issues of the articles are available in **Equip**, the church's online training site.

Elder in Charge Duties Checklist

- Arrive 45 minutes prior to Service.
- Make sure Sanctuary lights are on.
- Covid Protocol:
 - Ventilation (fan on/windows open)
 - Greeting Table set up hand sanitizer
- Ensure Communion Table is prepared on Communion Sunday
- Make sure bulletins are available in Narthex and placed on Greeting Table. (Check office if they are not there.)
- Light candles on the altar.
- Place extra envelopes on Greeting Table.
- Be positioned in Narthex 15 minutes prior to service.
- Invite congregants to sanitize hands as they arrive and take program from Greeting Table.
- Encourage visitors to take and complete a Visitor Card and return at end of service.
- CLOSE SANCTUARY DOORS once service has started. (Talking heard from the Narthex can be disruptive to the service.)
- Count attendees, including choir, organist, and pastor, and enter into book located in Narthex.
- Ensure Donation Box is in place at rear of the sanctuary.
- Be prepared to assist with issues as they arise during morning worship. (i.e.: quietly closing rear doors if there is chatter in the narthex or downstairs).
- Extinguish candles on altar at the conclusion of the service.
- Remove elements from Communion table and restore table.
- Turn off Sanctuary Lights; turn down heat, if needed. Shut off fan and close windows.



A Mother's Love (short version)

~Anon

A Mother's heart and a Mother's faith
And a Mother's steadfast love
Were fashioned by the Angels
And sent from God above.

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