

# “THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

*Monthly Newsletter*  
**MAY 2023**

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.” Acts 2:1-4

## **\*MAY BIRTHDAYS**

10 Agnes Tumfour

14 Nadine Pusey

\*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](mailto:CeceliaH@comcast.net)

## **PASTOR'S MESSAGE:**

The above Pentecost scripture reminds us that God gathers us together as one, even as we arrive with different gifts from different places. In our diversity, the Spirit blesses and welcomes us. The Spirit unifies us by inviting us to share our gifts, whatever they may be, and to proclaim God's truth in our own languages. In God's Holy Spirit, the language of love and service binds us together to be one Body of Christ – The Church.

The word Pentecost comes from a Greek word meaning fiftieth. The Jewish festival of Pentecost (called Shavuot, meaning "weeks" in Hebrew) falls on the fiftieth day after the original Passover. On that day, God gave the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai. The Christian festival of Pentecost falls on the 50th day after the resurrection of Jesus – May 28 this year.

Pentecost for Christians culminates the celebration and work of the church begun on Easter Day. In much of early Christianity, Easter Day (not Pentecost) became the primary day for baptisms. After their baptism, the newly baptized were then trained in basic Christian doctrine as they prepared to take up their ministries in the life of the church. On Pentecost, Christians primarily celebrate the commissioning of new members into ministry. Some do this through services of confirmation on Pentecost. And still others have also, historically, offered baptism on Pentecost as well.



**2023 SESSION LEADERS AND COMMITTEES: TOWNLEY TASK FORCES**

**SUPPORT**

Buildings & Grounds  
 Finances & Budget  
 Personnel  
 Rentals (Leases)

**PROGRAM**

Congregational Care  
 Evangelism  
 Fellowship  
 Media Outreach  
 (Advertising, Facebook, Newsletter  
 Webpage)  
 Mission/Outreach  
 Roadhouse  
 Stewardship

**VOCATION**

Christian Education:  
 (Bible Study, Confirmation Classes,  
 Prayer Group, Sunday School,  
 Youth Activities, etc.)  
 Leadership Development  
 Music  
 Worship

**SESSION LEADERS (RULING ELDERS)**

Chair: Janet Sangekar  
 Irene Schoenwalder  
 Marty Lindner

Chair: Lisa Heims  
 Linda Zehner  
 Karen Brelowski

Chair: Carol Gordon  
 Diane Smith  
 Bill Jensen

Non-Session Members  
 Kathy Kreie -  
 (Financial Secretary)  
 Glen Zehner –  
 (Buildings & Grounds)

Non-Session Members

Non-Session Members  
 Cynthia Manno  
 Bruce Tangowski  
 Vyonna Thompson

**CLASS OF 2023**

Carole Gordon  
 Lisa Heims

**CLASS OF 2024**

Irene Schoenwalder  
 Diane Smith  
 Bill Jensen

**CLASS OF 2025**

Karen Brelowski  
 Marty Lindner  
 Linda Zehner  
 Janet Sangekar

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2024** are from Choir (1) Cynthia Manno; from congregation (2) Kathy Kreie and Bruce Tangowski; from session (2) Lisa Heims and Bill Jensen.

**DAY OF PENTECOST:** On Sunday, May 28, 2023 – Pentecost Sunday, we will be having a multicultural service at 10:00 am followed by a multicultural potluck lunch. See Bill Jensen for more information. Come and join us!

**SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS FOR MAY & JUNE:**

**DATE**

**\*ELDER-IN-CHARGE**

**\*LAY LEADER**

**COMMUNION**

May 7	Carruthers Tumfour	Lynn Bailey
May 14	Carol Gordon	Cynthia Manno
May 21	Karen Brelowski	Kathy Kreie
May 28	Kathy Kreie	Lisa Heims
June 4	Janet Sangekar	Bruce Tangowski
June 11	Lisa Heims	Vyonna Thompson
June 18	Irene Schoenwalder	Diane Smith
June 25	Linda Zehner	Irene Schoenwalder

Carruthers T. & Lynn B.

Janet S. & Bruce T.



\* 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:

- May 7 – Ruth Ammerman
- May 14 - Pastor Ron
- May 21 - Roadhouse (5/20/23)
- May 28 – Multicultural Lunch
- June 4 – Family & Friends Day



### **SPRING RUMMAGE SALE:**

Our Spring Rummage Sale was a great success! Special thanks to its organizers, Glen and Linda and to all who donated their time and stuff! As of Saturday, April 29, we received \$4,343 – with contributions still coming in!

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING:** A total of \$160 in donations were received. These programs provide relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the oppressed. Thank you for your support. Mission Division.

**SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ** – presents the Piktors Metamorphosis on Saturday, May 20, 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 for more information. *Plan now for an evening of great music in Northern New Jersey's Most Intimate Coffeeshouse™*

**SESSION MEETING:** The next session meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at 7:30 pm in the upstairs meeting room. (Session meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.)

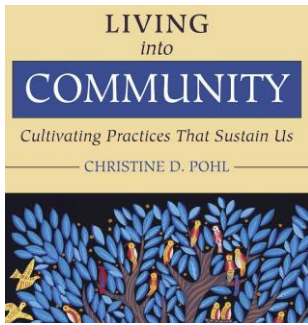
### **SESSION WORKS**



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

- Session Task Forces organization, as outlined above
- Reports from Task Forces
- Programing for Day of Pentecost
- Programing for Friends and Family Day
- Session Works Concept
- Proud Papas Fund Raiser

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 6:30-8:30 PM in the Prayer Room. The group is having a meaningful discussion of a book entitled “Living into Community – Cultivating Practices That Sustain Us”. – Christian community begins in gratitude, is sustained by our promises and truthfulness, and is expressed in hospitality. 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 next Bible Study resumes on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at Noon in Bailey Hall. We will be 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. Please review the introductory portions of INITIUM and PRIMUS MOTUS for our first session.



## THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY:

Hybrid Presbytery Meeting! The next meeting of the Presbytery is scheduled for May 20, 2023, at 9:30 am at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield and on Zoom. Website <https://pnenj.org>

**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!

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS DAY** – will be held on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Luncheon to follow service. See Lisa Heim for more information.

## *Gospel Brunch*

Join us for Gospel Brunches on Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, July 9<sup>th</sup> and September 10<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**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!

**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.

**DEACONS FUND:** Thank you for your donations of \$1,659. Your generous donations are providing rental assistance for one of our members.

**MISSION:** Donations of food and a \$100 check were given to Connecticut Farms Church Food Bank.



**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:** March offering totaled \$5,469. Cherish the Church Fund is up to \$5,102.

Our Cherish the Church Fund Thermometer will track 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

We received a check of \$279 from our bank, Connect One, through its Affinity Program. Connect One Bank donates annually to Townley an amount based on their client’s average balance who designate Townley Church as the recipient. The more clients who participate, the more money Townley can raise each year. If you open an account with Connect One Bank, ask your banker to make your account a supporting account with Townley Presbyterian Church. No account information is shared; it’s completely confidential. This will not impact your earnings – everyone wins!

**BAILEY HALL RENTALS:** Bailey Hall rentals are available for \$650.00 (\$450 for Hall, \$100 Sexton fee, and a \$100 refundable deposit).

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

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY SURVEY:** The General Assembly is involved with some research projects over the next few months. This month (May) they are looking for church members to complete the following survey by clicking on the attached link. This survey will be accessible through May 31<sup>st</sup>.

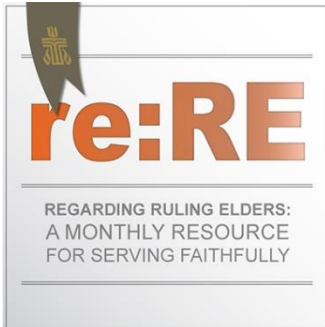
<https://surveys.pcusa.org/s3/Changing-Families-in-the-PC-USA>

## HOLY HUMOR

During the announcements one Sunday, the pastor said that there would be a board meeting in the back of the church immediately after the service. At the appointed time, the board members gathered. But when the pastor approached, he saw that a visitor was standing among them. "Brother," he said, "this meeting is for the board only." "Yes, reverend, I know that" the man replied, "and I came because I reckon, I'm about as bored as anyone." (From: "Hey! Christians Have a Sense of Humor, too! By Patricia Mitchell)

### REGARDING RULING ELDERS: A MONTHLY SERIES FOR SERVING FAITHFULLY

#### *Embracing the Valuable Ministry of Ruling Elders by Valerie Izumi – April 14, 2023*



How disheartening to hear a ruling elder say, "I am **just** a ruling elder." As leaders we can't afford, nor can the church, to downplay the importance of our ministry.

Ruling Elder Frances Lin, stated clerk for the Presbytery of San Diego, and I often lament the use of the qualifier "**just**" in this way. Is it because ruling elders may not feel capable of fulfilling their responsibilities? Are they trying to avoid the perception of privilege?

We cannot imagine a scenario where someone would say of a teaching elder, "Oh, they are **just** a minister of Word and Sacrament."

Shani McIlwain is a ruling elder at Faith Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C., and is well-respected for her contributions to the church. She serves as moderator of National Capital Presbytery and is a member of the General Assembly Committee on Representation. She is a successful entrepreneur, a best-selling and award-winning author, and a social media personality. Shani is also an experienced facilitator and speaker, and more!

Shani's story is a testament to the power of mentoring and seizing opportunities. Despite serving as a deacon for many years, Shani did not realize how becoming a ruling elder would strengthen her leadership and professional work. When a pastor friend questioned why Shani wasn't an elder, Shani began to consider it. This led to a desire to speak at conferences, lead retreats, and preach the Word, even asking to be added to the presbytery's pulpit supply list despite not having seminary training.

When first ordained as a ruling elder, Shani confessed that for a long time she referred to herself as "just an elder" because she was often around ministers. However, with the encouragement and validation from several participants at an Association of Partners in Christian Education (APCE) conference, she stopped using the word "just," fully embracing the importance of this office.

Shani's faith journey as a ruling elder is an inspiring witness of discovering, owning, and nurturing one's unique spiritual gifts. As she served on various committees and boards, she was invited to speak at events and embraced the opportunities that came her way. When asked if she was afraid, she responded, "I was afraid, but I did it anyway; the fear is always there, it has never gone away." Even so, she said yes to God, because "I love God more than I fear anything."

Her advice for ruling elders is to avoid comparing themselves to others and to embrace their unique spiritual gifts, given to each of us by God, and to bring those gifts to the table. Identify

what you do well and lean into your strengths. Shani’s passion for teaching and equipping people is evident, and she encourages others to do the same for those around them. She emphasizes the importance of having a strong support system and finding ways to balance work and ministry. Remember to pursue what motivates you and brings you joy.

And pray!

Thank you, Shani McIlwain, and all ruling elders, for your witness and ministry, as you serve with energy, intelligence, imagination and love.

For Reflection:

- Shani’s talent for storytelling emboldened her to ask to be added to the pulpit supply list. Thinking about your own unique spiritual gifts, how they might be used in the church and community?
  - When did someone else recognize your gifts or abilities before you did? Take some time to reflect and pray on these experiences to discern how the Holy Spirit may be moving in your life.
  - Consider how you might cultivate a strong support system to ensure that you are effectively equipped for this ministry. What are some qualities that would make such a support system useful for you?
- 

Valerie Izumi is a ruling elder serving the Office of the General Assembly as an assistant stated clerk, coordinating the General Assembly nominations process.

**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.**

With God's strength behind you, His love within you, and His arms underneath you, you are more than sufficient for the days ahead of you.

**FIGGERIT ANSWER**

***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"***

**FIGGERIT**

**CLUES:**

1. One of the two Presbyterian sacraments is \_\_\_\_\_  
20 6 18 18 14 11 2 6 11

2. (*Hebrews 11:1*) "Now \_\_\_\_\_ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of  
things hoped for, 19 17 2 3 4 17 8 8 14 9 17 11 20 10  
the \_\_\_\_\_ of things not seen."  
20 6 11 16 2 20 3 2 6 11

3. (*Genesis 12:2*) "I \_\_\_\_\_ make of \_\_\_\_\_ a great nation, and I will bless  
1 2 15 15 13 6 14  
you \_\_\_\_\_ make your name great, so that you will be a \_\_\_\_\_"  
17 11 7 12 15 10 8 8 2 11 5

**MESSAGE:**

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 8 3 9 10 11 5 3 4

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
12 10 4 2 11 7 13 6 14 4 2 8 15 6 16 10

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
1 2 3 4 2 11 13 6 14 17 11 7 4 2 8 17 9 18 8

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
14 11 7 10 9 11 10 17 3 4 13 6 14 13 6 14 17 9 10

\_\_\_\_\_  
18 6 9 10 3 4 17 11 8 14 19 19 2 20 2 10 11 3 19 6 9

\_\_\_\_\_  
3 4 10 7 17 13 8 17 4 10 17 7 6 19 13 6 14

From Life Lessons by Robert C. Savage

*Figgerit* by Cecelia H.