

# “THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

**Monthly Newsletter**  
**MAY 2026**

*29 "And now, Lord, take notice of the threats they have made, and allow us, your servants, to speak your message with all boldness. 30 Reach out your hand to heal, and grant that wonders and miracles may be performed through the name of your holy Servant Jesus." 31 When they finished praying, the place where they were meeting was shaken. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to proclaim God's message with boldness. Acts 4:29-31*

## **MAY BIRTHDAYS**

10 – Agnes Tumfour  
21 - Journey Beech-Wilson  
21 - Karma Beech-Wilson

## **PASTOR'S MESSAGE:**

### **Vow of Nonviolence**

*By WILLIAM J. BARBER, II AND JONATHAN WILSON-HARTGROVE*

I pledge allegiance to the power of love.

I reject every myth that claims a world or a nation can be built by destroying my enemies, and I affirm the wisdom of every tradition that teaches life is a gift.

In gratitude for the gift of my life, and in recognition that service is the rent we pay for our space here on earth, I commit to nonviolent struggle against every form of violence.

I refuse to accept the violence that starves a child, the violence that denies someone healthcare, the violence that keeps people in poverty, the violence that denies people a place to belong, the violence that says some types of people do not deserve the same respect that the inherent dignity of every person demands of each of us.

Because I understand the power of love in action, my resistance to violence is not passive. I commit to using every nonviolent tool available to resist evil and build beloved community.

I will make every effort to pursue the truth by speaking directly with people whose actions I oppose.

I will petition my representatives and engage in mass education through nonviolent protest, vigils, marches, and mass assemblies.

I will exercise the nonviolent tool of voting, and I will work to educate, register, and mobilize voters who have been alienated from the democratic process.

I will aim to keep my own intentions pure through fasting, prayer, meditation, and self-reflection as means of fighting the violence that is within me.

I will refuse to cooperate with evil, joining others in boycotts, strikes, sit-ins, and shut-downs.

I commit that I am willing to lay down my own life to resist evil, but I will not take another person's life.

I make this pledge in the company of a beloved community, and I trust that the power of love, working through us and others like us, can transform the world that is into the world that ought to be.

### **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>
May 3	Carol Gordon	Bruce Tangowski	Carol & Bruce
May 10	Janet Sangekar	Vyonnia Thompson	
May 17	Karen Brelowski	Diane Smith	
May 24	Lois Tangowski	Cynthia Manno	
May 31	Kathy Kreie	Lynn Bailey	
June 7	Marty Lindner	Lisa Heims	Marty & Lisa
June 14	Lisa Heims	Kathy Kreie	
June 21	Irene Schoenwalder	Irene Schoenwalder	
June 28	Linda Zehner	Karen Brelowski	

\* 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.



May 3 – Lisa and Kathy

**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!

**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. Our next distribution date will be **May 2<sup>nd</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.

**COMMUNITY SAFETY:** Please join us for a Community Pedestrian Safety Presentation by Union Township on **Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm** in the sanctuary. Volunteer greeters and helpers are needed. Please see Bruce for more information.

**SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ:** There will be a free lawn concert on **Saturday, May 30, 2026, at 6:00pm**. 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.

**WEDNESDAY NOON BIBLE STUDY:** Join us as we begin our Spring Bible Study on the Book of Revelation. "Mention the book of Revelation, and you'll receive a spectrum of responses. Some will be intrigued, others fascinated, some perplexed, others hesitant, some nervous, others afraid. Toss around a mention of the number 666 or the beast, and some will wince while others grow wide-eyed." See Pastor Ron for your study guide.

**SPRING RUMMAGE SALE:** is scheduled for **Friday, May 22 & Saturday, May 23, 2026**. Come out and enjoy a feeling of camaraderie working alongside fellow church members for a rewarding experience that not only helps others, but also helps our church. This is the schedule:

Saturday, May 16 – Set up tables for the sale in Bailey Hall from 10:00am-12noon,

Sunday, May 17 – Begin to sort donations for a short time after worship service.

Monday, May 18-Thursday, May 21 – Sort donations every day from:

10:00am-2:00pm & 7:30pm-9:00pm

Friday, May 22 – Rummage SALE DAY 9am - 6pm

Saturday, May 23 – Rummage BAG DAY from 9am – Noon.

- CLEAN-UP will immediately follow from 12:00 noon -3pm.

Two weeks prior to the rummage sale you may start bringing in your rummage donation items, and place them in the old choir room outside of Bailey Hall. Workers are needed to help set up on Saturday, May 16, and putting out donations every day during the following week. Help is also needed on the days of the sale, and the cleanup afterwards on Saturday, May 23. Please review your calendars and let Janet and/or Linda know when you will be available to help. Thank you for your support!

**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).

**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 **April's** meeting, the following items were approved / discussed:

- ✓ Task Force Reports
- ✓ The Blessing Room Schedule for 2026 has been set. The session agreed that the schedule will be set yearly at the beginning of each year in order to avoid calendar conflicts.
- ✓ Approval to proceed with exploring the Scouting America opportunity, subject to finding sufficient volunteers and gaining session's approval for scheduling and other decisions.

**SESSION MEETING:** The next Session meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 20, 2026**, at 7:30 pm in **Bailey Hall**. (Session meetings are usually held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.)

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

**NEW LEGACY BOOKS:** All book donations must be in good readable condition and have an ISBN barcode on the cover. No Encyclopedias, Magazines or water damaged books can be accepted. Your donation helps raise funds for Church Mission projects and Church repairs. For more information or if you wish to purchase books, please visit: [NewLegacyBooks.com](http://NewLegacyBooks.com).

**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.

**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.orgwww>.



**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



### AAPI Food & Music Festival

Join us for our annual AAPI (Asian American & Pacific Islander) Food & Music Festival on **Saturday, May 2, from 1 to 5 p.m.** on Stuyvesant Avenue (between Morris and Axton Ave) for a festival with delicious food vendors, exciting activities, and more!



### Union DPW to Host Annual Seedling Giveaway

Union’s annual Seedling Giveaway is set for **Saturday, May 16. Beginning at 9 am**, residents are invited to the Department of Public Works facility at 1 Swanstrom Place East to receive free tree seedlings. This year, the township will be distributing two flowering species: Red Buds and Magnolias. These trees are known for their vibrant spring blooms and their ability to thrive in the local climate. The giveaway will operate on a first-come, first-served basis, while supplies last. There is a seedling limit of one per person. The event is for Union residents only and proof of residency is required. Businesses are not eligible for the free seedling. Residents are advised to arrive early, as supplies are limited and the event will conclude once all seedlings have been distributed.

**PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE – May 28, 2026 – June 28, 2026**



Roughly based on Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, **West Side Story** brings the tragic tale of two star-crossed lovers to 1950s New York where two gangs, the Jets and the Sharks, compete for power on the streets of the city. Tension rises between the rival groups when Maria, the sister of the Sharks' gang leader, and Tony, a member of the Jets, meet at a dance hall and instantly fall in love. Since its Broadway debut in 1957, *West Side Story* has endured as one of the great musical classics of the 20th Century with a successful film version and numerous tours, remounts and lengthy runs on major stages.



*"Lord God, we lift up all mothers to You. Grant them the strength to face the daily challenges with courage and the wisdom to guide their children towards a life of faith and service. Encourage them when they are weary and inspire them when they feel overwhelmed. Bless them with Your peace and love, now and forever. Amen."*

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