

“THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

Monthly Newsletter
NOVEMBER 2021



PASTOR'S MESSAGE:

Celebrating Thankfulness

November, already! Cooler temperatures and falling leaves usher in a season of family and community gatherings. Some years ago, our nation dedicated the fourth Thursday of each November as Thanksgiving Day. A day set aside to express gratitude, especially to God. We have come a long way (*baby*). Many of our gatherings leave out the ‘God part’.

We can regain the ‘God part’. I believe that our focus on material gain has lessened our dependence on God. As if what we have did not come from somewhere else. We have been taught to hoard what we have, that more is better, and that we’ll never have enough. Consider living with a sense of abundance, not scarcity.

Live with a sense of abundance, not scarcity. The sense of scarcity does not compute in God’s economy. In God’s economy, there is more than enough for everyone. In God’s economy, our lives are enriched by living generously and being assured of God’s abundance.

May November be a time in which generosity and giving, as a spiritual practice, be renewed. Let our focus be on appreciating all we have. In contrast to being oblivious of an overflowing excess. Think simplicity and contentment — we don’t have to have a lot for it to be enough.



SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS FOR NOVEMBER:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>*ELDER-IN-CHARGE</u>	<u>*LAY LEADER</u>
NOV. 7	Linda Zehner	Lisa Heims
NOV. 14	Carruthers Tumfour	Diane Smith
NOV. 21	Carol Gordon	Janet Sangekar
NOV. 28	Kathy Kreie	Irene Schoenwalder
DEC. 5	June Donohue	Lisa Heims
DEC. 12	Lois Tangowski	Bruce Tangowski
DEC. 19	Carol Gordon	Vyonnia Thompson



*** 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 next month's newsletter. Also, give yourself enough time to set up prior to worship time.**

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 11:00 AM, 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 donation to Townley Church for distribution.



On October 12, 2021 a check in the amount of \$550 was issued to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Hurricane Ida. Thank you to everyone who donated.

Our October Rummage Sale was a major success, we raised \$4,087. Linda Zehner and Janet Sangekar will decide where 10% of the proceeds will be donated.

Bingo prizes were donated to a nursing home (formerly named Genesis) in Westfield, NJ.

VETERANS & HOMELESS PROJECT: Townley Church is participating in a project to support the veterans and homeless in our community in co-operation with other churches in our area on Sunday, November 7, 2021. Townley is collecting items to fill 100 self-care packages, that we will be presenting to those in need at a meal hosted by our sister church, Connecticut Farms Presbyterian. An email was sent out last Saturday with a list of items needed for these packages. Monetary donations will also be gratefully accepted by Cynthia and Diane on Sunday, October 30. Agenda for Sunday, November 7, 2021:

12:45 pm – Sandwiches will be prepared and packed in the gym at the First Presbyterian Church in Cranford (11 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, NJ). Volunteers should park in the back parking lot.

2:45 pm – Meet at the First Baptist Church in Elizabeth (402 Union Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ) for distribution beginning at 3:00 pm.

If you have any questions and / or are interested in volunteering on Sunday, November 7, please contact Cynthia or Diane.

“Unless people can get enough food and nutrition to feed their families, everyone loses not only the families who do not have enough to eat, but all of us as well. Those in need of food and nutrition deprive all of us of the contributions that they can make as citizens, not only in the workforce, but also as stable members of our communities.” By Skip Winter of First Presbyterian Church of Cranford

“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: 1 605-562-8401. Access code: 367 0530

SESSION MEETING: Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 7:30 pm.

Operation Christmas Child: Townley Church will be participating in Operation Christmas Child again this year. If you would like to fill a shoebox with gifts for a needy child, shoeboxes are now available. Filled shoeboxes must be returned to the church by Sunday, November 14, 2021. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Zehner at zehnerlinda@yahoo.com.

TOWNLEY BOOK CLUB: Our next book is ***This Close to Okay* by Leesa Cross-Smith**. “It is a powerful, vibrant novel about the life-changing weekend shared between two strangers, from the award-winning writer Roxane Gay calls a ‘consummate storyteller’.” We will discuss it on Monday, December 6, at 7:00 PM. Let’s bring snacks to share while we discuss. Cecelia



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

THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY: The next Stated Meeting will be held on Saturday, November 20, 2021, at 9:00am via Zoom. The legal address of our new Presbytery is 340 West Passaic Street, 3rd Floor, Rochelle Park, New Jersey 07662. Website <https://pnenj.org>



A NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

Your Session sincerely appreciates how you have continued to let giving complete your lives. **Your weekly offerings** are accepted Sundays in person or can be mailed 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.

Townley Church is also proud to announce the launch of **Venmo** (a cell phone app) with its own QR Code – which you may find easier to use since there is no account to set up. In fact, we have already received our first donation for Townley Church via Venmo. If you would like a receipt, please include an email address while making your donation via Venmo. Our Venmo QR Code is:



Townley Church
[@townleychurch](https://www.instagram.com/townleychurch)



Scan this code to pay



"SOUNDS OF THE SEASON - A FREE HOLIDAY CONCERT": This coming December 4th, a



Saturday night, Townley Church will be sponsoring a free holiday concert for the community. The show will be three hours long, starting at 6:30PM to about 9:30PM featuring holiday music in multiple genres; from rock/blues/folk to jazz groups, with traditional solos, duets, instrumentals and even traditional organ. Professional musicians, groups, and even talented Townley folk will be performing renditions of holiday favorites, including some audience participation tunes. The show will be upstairs in the sanctuary, with Christmas decorations, special lighting in the chancel and decorations inside the church. A "free will" offering box or bowl will be in the Narthex for donations to a yet-to-be-named charity.

This is a community outreach event, opening up Townley Church to the "outside community". As the next month rolls by, **every** member of Townley will be asked to participate in the planning, organization, and actual running of the event. Many have different skills in areas that are much needed, such as Promotion/publicity, Sanctuary Decorating, Setup/Teardown of the show, inside "Hosts" (Think ushers) and front door greeters for the attending public. Folks who are "friends of Townley" but not officially church members are also welcome to join us and help. We need every church member to help with promoting the show *starting now* and through the fall until the show; by word-of-mouth, Facebook, online, newspaper and online media, posting flyers, etc., etc. (We're open to ideas!)

The core organizing team members are: Pastor Ron Thompson, Cynthia Manno, Janet Sangekar, Bill Jensen, Lisa Heims, Lois Tangowski and Bruce Tangowski

We have already begun to tap some of you for specific areas where we feel you can help, but if you have a skill or area of interest you would like to help with, please contact one of us as soon as possible.

We envision a full sanctuary watching wonderful musical performances!

SAVE THE DATE – For our Christmas Party on Friday, December 10, 2021 at 6:00pm. It will be held at: La Casa Di Martino, 301 West Clay Avenue, Roselle Park, NJ 07204.



Reservations and cost of \$30.00 per person (cash preferred) are appreciated as soon as possible, but no later than November 28th to Lisa Heims or Kathy Kreie. The restaurant requires a minimum of 30, with a maximum of 50 people.

THE CENTER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING (COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY): For church professionals and lay people, Columbia's Center for Lifelong Learning provides non-degree courses and events—opportunities to learn with and from others for faithful discipleship. Led by top-notch seminary faculty, our offerings are biblically and theologically grounded, with a practical focus to help participants identify and address specific, real-life needs. [Consider these upcoming opportunities.](#)

REGARDING RULING ELDERS: A MONTHLY SERIES FOR SERVING FAITHFULLY

Leaders Dance by Rodger Nishioka – October 15, 2021

Several years ago, I was honored to be the keynote speaker at a weekend youth retreat for the Presbytery of the Cascades. We met at a beautiful retreat center outside of Portland, Oregon. As the young people and adults gathered on Friday evening, I met Marissa, a high

school freshman who was paraplegic. She was quiet and a bit shy and moved around well in her wheelchair. I told her I was so glad she was with us for the weekend.

We did our best to include Marissa, but because of limited accessibility, she had to stay in the main lodge instead of in the cabins with the other young people. It was a rainy weekend, so she could not join us on the muddy field for group games. One of the other young people was the opposite of Marissa. His name was Darin. He was a tall, loud, borderline obnoxious, athletic high school senior. He loved attention and seemed to enjoy pushing boundaries.

On Saturday night, we gathered in the main lodge for a dance. Most of the “dances” were energizers the group had been taught. It was great fun. Marissa participated when she could, but most of the time she stayed against the wall of the room. After about 45 minutes, Darin claimed the microphone and told everyone to get one of the chairs stacked against the walls. For reasons that are beyond me, all of us obeyed him. He told us to scatter the chairs around the floor and sit in them. Then Darin looked over at Marissa and yelled at her, “Marissa! Come on! Let’s dance!” Marissa made her way toward Darin, the music started up again, and all of us danced while sitting in our chairs.

Leaders dance. Leaders dance in ways that welcome everyone of every ability. For the rest of the evening, Marissa stayed on the dance floor. Sometimes most of the group was sitting down. Sometimes most of the group was standing up. But all of the time Darin was moving around the room encouraging the younger and more shy students to join us. Every time I sing “I Danced in the Morning,” my heart brings me back to Marissa and Darin, and I give thanks for their teaching us a whole new way to dance.

Leaders dance.

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 **tenth** 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.*

We Are Thankful By Joanna Fuchs

*Dear Lord, we are thankful for this day, set aside to honor all the ways
You bless us with Your goodness, love, and grace.
We are thankful for the people at this table who add a variety of
wonderful things to our lives just by being who they are.
We are thankful for the food we are about to eat, which You created for
our nourishment and pleasure.
Most of all, Lord, we thank You for always being there for us, guiding us,
encouraging us, comforting us and blessing us.
In Jesus’ name we pray; Amen.*

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