

# “THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

*Monthly Newsletter*  
**NOVEMBER 2022**

*With praise and thanksgiving, they sang to the LORD: “He is good; his love toward Israel endures forever.” And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid. Ezra 3:11*

## PASTOR’S MESSAGE:

### **DON’T FADE**

Autumn is in full swing. The colors are spectacular! As we admire the beauty of the moment, our grands asks: why do leaves change color? Our Creator knows. As summer fades into fall, the days start getting shorter and there is less sunlight. This is a signal for the leaf to prepare for winter and to stop making chlorophyll. Once this happens, the green color starts to fade and the reds, oranges, and yellows become visible. The green color starts to fade.

What happens to us when change comes? When, as this season brings, there is less light – less clarity. There is no doubt that we live in a world caught up in negative news cycles. Messages that speak of hopelessness, fear, and even the end of the world, as we know it. Messages that challenge us to remain faithful in difficult times. Messages that can cause our faith to fade.

The Bible contains some challenging messages too. They invite us to ask where God is when things go wrong. That is why we can look at the messages (texts) of the early church and learn how to remain hopeful, even when the headlines seem out of control. Messages that teach us not to fade as the seasons of our lives change. Claiming hope in the midst of darkness through God’s everlasting light – Jesus Christ.



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME** – concludes at 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 6, 2022, when the clock will “fall back” one hour.



*Thank you church family  
for all your help and time  
you gave us to make  
Sangi's Celebration of Life Service  
a memorable day.  
We deeply appreciate all the cards sent,  
and the kindness, support, and love  
you've shown us during this difficult time.  
It will always be remembered.*

*Love,  
Janet, Jason, Caroline and Ava Sangekar*

The **SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ** presents  
Robert Hill Bands debut Blues Gospel Album Release,  
**Saturday, 5 November 2022.** The doors open at 7:30 PM.

The latest release from Robert Hill & Joanne Lediger, who have been performing and touring together for fifteen years, is titled Revelation. For the project, vocalist Joanne Lediger and partner Robert Hill - on guitar, vocals, harp and keys, are joined by: Paulina Hill, Robert's daughter, on vocals; Steve Gelfand on bass; Frank Pagano on drums and percussion; and Ed Alstrom on Hammond B3 organ. Of the disc's eleven traditional Gospel Blues tracks, four are Robert Hill originals. Robert's CD has achieved acclaim in a very short time, reaching #1&2 on the Top 50 Gospel Blues Song Chart; # 5 on the Top 50 Blues Album Chart, and #2 on the New York Album Chart, among other top-rated charts.

Original artwork by Robert Hill and Roadhouse director Bruce Tangowski will be on display at the Roadhouse Gallery of Fine Art. As always, the Salem Roadhouse Café is live, intimate, up front, and personal. All ages are welcome.

- SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ, 829 Salem Rd., Union, NJ 07083
- Doors open 7:30PM. Show starts at 8:00PM.
- Admission: \$20.00. Admission includes show, snacks, non-alcoholic beverages, and dessert.

Plan now for an evening of great music in Northern New Jersey's Most Intimate Coffeehouse™. Wearing of masks is optional.

**SESSION MEETING:** The next session meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 21, 2022 at 7:30 pm. (Session meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month.)

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

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:** Please return filled shoebox-like containers to Linda by November 13<sup>th</sup>, so they may be distributed to a needy child in time for Christmas.

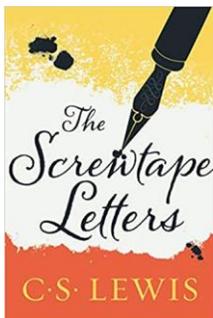


**THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY:** The next Stated Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 7:00pm – 9:00pm via Zoom. The legal address of our new Presbytery is 340 West Passaic Street, 3rd Floor, Rochelle Park, New Jersey 07662. Website <https://pnenj.org>

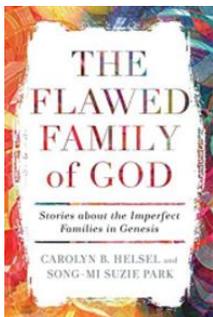
**SPRING RUMMAGE SALE:** Our *tentative dates* for the spring rummage sale are April 28 & 29, 2023.



### **BIBLE STUDY RESUMED ON SEPTEMBER 26**



*The Screwtape Letters* is a brilliant and satirical look at spiritual warfare and the dynamics of temptation. Screwtape, a senior demon in the bureaucracy of Hell, writes letters to his incompetent nephew Wormwood, a junior devil. The younger demon's assignment is to corrupt a young man living in London during the tumultuous days of World War II. Our goal for this 12-week study is to examine each letter through a Christian lens of morality, temptation, and good and evil. See Pastor Ron for the book and study materials. It's not too late



### **NEW TOWNLEY COMMUNITY GROUP**

A new "Townley Community Group" is meeting on **Thursday evenings from 7-9:00 PM** in the Prayer Room. The group has begun a meaningful discussion of a book entitled "The Flawed Family of God" – consisting of stories about the imperfect families found in the Book of Genesis. All are welcome to join the discussion and fellowship – snacks included! See Francia, Sandra, Santiago, or Pastor Ron for more info.

## SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS FOR NOVEMBER & DECEMBER:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>*ELDER-IN-CHARGE</u>	<u>*LAY LEADER</u>
November 6	Irene Schoenwalder	Lisa Heims
November 13	Linda Zehner	Bruce Tangowski
November 20	Carruthers Tumfour	Vyonnia Thompson
November 27	Carol Gordon	Carruthers Tumfour
December 4	Kathy Kreie	Maryann Cove
December 11	Linda Zehner	Cynthia Manno
December 18	Janet Sangekar	Lynn Bailey
December 25	Lisa Heims	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 time.**

**MISSION:** In October we made a food delivery of items received to Connecticut Farms Food Bank.

- A check in the amount of \$200 will be sent to Connecticut Farms Food Bank to purchase turkeys for Thanksgiving.
- Linda Zehner distributed shoe boxes for "Operation Christmas Child". Filled containers will be collected by November 13<sup>th</sup>.



### **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.

**SAVE THE DATE:** This year's Christmas Party will be held on **Saturday, December 10, 2022**, at 5:00 PM. Due to popular request, it was decided to be held again at La Casa Di Martino, 301 West Clay Avenue, Roselle Park, NJ 07204. The price will be \$35.00 per person due to a price increase.

### **NEW ITEMS NEEDED:**

Please donate any new items you may have for our **Christmas party prize baskets**. The prize baskets always make for a lot of fun at the party, as well as raise funds for the mission project we choose for the event. We usually acquire many of our new items from the rummage sale donations, but this year we will not be having a fall rummage sale. Please see Lisa or Kathy if you have any new items you would like to donate. Thank you!



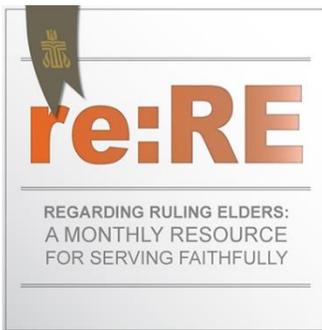
**COFFEE HOUR:** Volunteers are needed to bring baked goods for Coffee Hour on Sunday mornings after worship. There is a sign-up sheet in the kitchen. If you have any questions, you may contact Linda Zehner.

**WELCOMING COMMITTEE:** Francia (*Bayona*) Landrau is looking for volunteers to serve with her on a new welcoming committee for our church. Let her know if you are interested.

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

### *Of Queens and Questions for Ruling Elders*

#### *Question I (1) by Julie Hester – September 14, 2022*



*Will you be a faithful ruling elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?*

As I write this, the funeral service for Queen Elizabeth II is on television. Coverage is a curious mix of solemnity, celebration, history, gossip, and protest, topped off with pageantry. Along with justifiable questions about colonialism, class, and wealth, the tone is largely

public grief and gratitude for a long-serving ruler.

I can't parse all the differences between a monarch's rule and the role of ruling elders. But the backdrop of a leader who faithfully served during challenging times provides color commentary as we consider the ordination question for ruling elders. After watching days of royal flashbacks, I can almost hear the question in Elizabeth's clipped British accent, can't you? (*Scroll back up and read it in your poshest voice.*)

Now put yourself back in the sanctuary, or on the Zoom screen, where you were asked this question upon ordination or where those called to serve on your behalf were asked.

Unlike a monarch at their coronation, you aren't surrounded by the elite of society, media and government. You are surrounded by the church — the Body of Christ. It's a particular collection of Jesus-followers. Each has their own fears and flaws, hopes and gifts, tastes and talents. With this question, you promise to watch over them all.

But you don't do it alone! Claiming the shared authority in our polity, you promise — along with others — to provide opportunities for the whole people of God to worship, nurture faith, and serve the world. This may mean labor on a particular ministry team or council as you put your gifts to work serving the kin-dom of God. It means participating in decisions about ministry priorities. And it often means a new role in worship.

On my TV, coverage continues during the worship service in Westminster Cathedral. The bearers carefully move the queen's coffin with flowers and a jeweled crown on top. I wonder about those young men in uniform. How were they selected? How much did they practice? Are they able to worship at all, or are they too worried about messing up their highly visible job?

I think of ruling elders in congregations serving communion for the first time. Many are afraid to make a mistake — handle the elements incorrectly, stand in the wrong place, or drop something. (*I've done all those things and it was fine!*) I want to say to the bearers what I'd say to ruling elders: It works best when we work as a team; help one another out; don't forget to serve each other; remember it's about God and not about us.

While most viewers' attention is on what's happening inside the cathedral, there is still ongoing business of the realm and the crown's part in that. Reporters speculate about how the new king might have different priorities and unexpected challenges. Just as a royal changeover results in a rotating wheel of titles, property, and responsibilities, a new slate of ruling elders means change for the church at every level. Sessions and councils adjust. New ideas emerge. The business of the Body continues.

As the hours of funeral coverage continue, Puerto Rico is dealing with another devastating hurricane. Some group of news executives had to decide what to report on, and when. Imagine that meeting. I fear their question wasn't about what they should help their viewers pay attention to, but rather, what would satisfy their shareholders and advertisers and keep up with the competition.

The connection with church is pretty obvious. When we agree to try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ in our ministry, it guides every decision we make. How we worship. Where we spend our time and money. Whom we welcome. When we pivot our plans. What we let go of, even if it is popular. What we pay attention to, even if it is hard.

In her first Christmas address in 1952, Elizabeth asked for prayers from listeners for her upcoming coronation. Her words could be those of ruling elders answering the call to serve: "... pray that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him and you, all the days of my life."

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*The Rev. Julie Coffman Hester is a pastor and writer in the [Presbytery of Western North Carolina](#). She is inspired by faithful ruling elders, like her parents, and the remarkable disciples with whom she has served in local congregations.*

**This article is the tenth in a 12-part series focusing on the constitutional questions that church leaders answer upon their ordination and installation, using some of the materials from "Coming Alive in Christ: Training for PC(USA) Ruling Elders and Deacons Based on the Constitutional Questions," which is available through [Equip](#), the church's online training platform.**

**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"**



## Along the Road

Announcing a new podcast just for you!

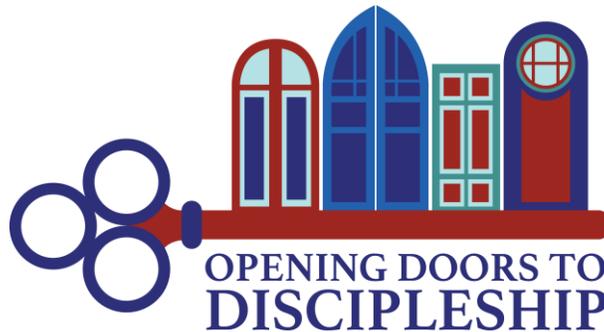
Be inspired, hear the stories of others, and practice the tools of faith and leadership through conversations that nourish, enrich, and aid in the formation of leaders in the church. Mid Council leaders will integrate foundational values with the practice of faith and ministry. Congregational leaders, particularly ruling elders and deacons, will experience practices to connect faith to everyday life.

Nourish: Short episodes for ruling elders and deacons

Encounter: Longer episodes for church and mid council leaders

*Along the Road* has recently launched on your favorite streaming service. The trailer and the first Nourish episode are now available.

[Read more](#) and find links to weekly episodes here as they are published.



## Opening Doors to Discipleship

The recently reworked website, *Opening Doors to Discipleship*, includes a library of online training resources for church leaders, particularly focused on faith formation. Sections include Exploring Your Call, Reformed Theology, and Becoming Tomorrow's Church Today. Explore the website [here](#) with more resources being added regularly.

# SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ

This Month - Gospel Blues featuring....

**ROBERT HILL & JOANNE LEDIGER**

*will debut their new CD release*

## REVELATION

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 8:00 PM

DOORS OPEN AT 7:30 PM ADMISSION: \$20.00 STUDENTS \$15.00

*Admission includes snacks, beverages, tea, coffee & desserts*



The latest release from Robert Hill & Joanne Lediger, who have been performing and touring together for fifteen years, is titled *Revelation*. For the project, vocalist Joanne Lediger and partner Robert Hill - on guitar, vocals, harp and keys, are joined by: Paulina Hill, Robert's daughter, on vocals; Steve Gelfand on bass; Frank Pagano on drums and percussion; and Ed Alstrom on Hammond B3 organ. Of the disc's eleven traditional Gospel Blues tracks, four are Robert Hill originals. Robert's CD has achieved acclaim in a very short time, reaching #1&2 on the Top 50 Gospel Blues Song Chart; # 5 on the Top 50 Blues Album Chart, and #2 on the New York Album Chart, among other top rated charts.

2022 Show proceeds will benefit  
YWCA Union County PALS program

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**  
union county

All shows are featured on UNION TV34's "ROADHOUSE UNPLUGGED" nightly 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

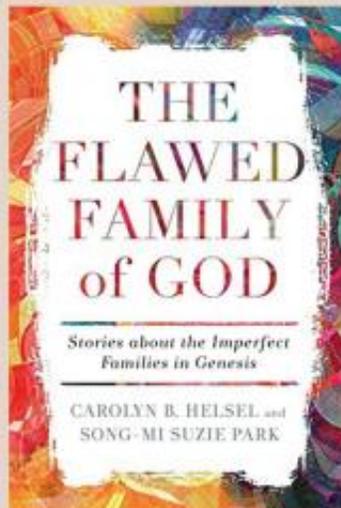
WEBSITE: [www.townleychurch.org](http://www.townleychurch.org) FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/salemroadhouse](http://www.facebook.com/salemroadhouse)

**THURSDAY NIGHT**

# Townley Community Group

**EVERY THURSDAY — 7PM-9PM**

**Join us in meaningful discussions and fellowship**



**DISCUSSION BOOKS  
PROVIDED**

**TOWNLEY CHURCH  
829 SALEM RD, UNION,  
NJ 07083**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
TOWNLEYCG@GMAIL.COM  
908 425 5243**

# THANKSGIVING WORD SEARCH



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| Blessings  | Family    | Harvest  | Pumpkin Pie    | Tradition |
| Corn       | Feast     | Leaves   | Stuffing       | Turkey    |
| Cornucopia | Gather    | November | Sweet Potatoes |           |
| Cranberry  | Gratitude | Pilgrims | Thanksgiving   |           |

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