

“THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

Monthly Newsletter
NOVEMBER 2024

Thanksgiving and Encouragement

³ I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷ for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:3,6-7

PASTOR’S MESSAGE:

NOVEMBER (*already?*)

Somewhere nestled between Halloween and Christmas, is the entire month of November. Our retail outlets won’t admit it. Probably because they are more concerned with the sales of costumes, decorations, and gifts. But I am feeling the significance of November in three main areas: Voting, Veterans, and Thanksgiving. Each area lends itself to being a subtopic of patriotism.

Patriotism is defined as one’s feeling of love, devotion, and sense of attachment to a country. In the United States of America, patriotism is embraced by one’s participation in, service of and gratitude for our nation.

One of the various ways in which we can actively display our patriotism is by voting. Voting is a right. Our votes do matter. Our ballots should not be lost or destroyed. The system is not rigged and can be trusted. The main issue are the candidates. ***Can they be trusted?***

A shout out to our Veterans and others who have served and now serve the public. I believe that paying taxes is a public service. Obeying the laws of this land is a public service. We all work hard to ensure the well-being of our families and communities. It is shameful when taxes that are due are not paid and when our laws are not equally applied to everyone.

The final thought about November is Thanksgiving. The fourth Thursday in November is observed as a legal holiday in the United States. Yes, it is important when a nation appoints a day for giving thanks for divine goodness. Perhaps that is what is most needed – thankfulness to God for our nation. As we vote, let us thank God for the opportunity to move forward and not backward. As we recognize our veterans, let us thank God for the men, women, and means that have served our country. And then, let us thank God for the many who love God and are devoted to God’s will and way. Those who are longing for a better country—a heavenly one.



SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>*ELDER-IN-CHARGE</u>	<u>*LAY LEADER</u>	<u>COMMUNION</u>
Nov. 3	Lois Tangowski	Karen Brelowski	Lois & Karen
Nov. 10	Kathy Kreie	Bruce Tangowski	
Nov. 17	Irene Schoenwalder	Vyonnia Thompson	
Nov. 24	Lisa Heims	Santiago Guzman	
Dec. 1	Marty Lindner	Cynthia Manno	Marty & Cynthia
Dec. 8	Linda Zehner	Diane Smith	
Dec. 15	Janet Sangekar	Lynn Bailey	
Dec. 22	Carol Gordon	Lisa Heims	
Dec. 29	Karen Brelowski	Kathy Kreie	



*** 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.

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| Nov. 3 – Bill Jensen | Dec. 1 – Debbie & Janine |
| Nov. 10 – Karen Brelowski | Dec. 8 – Maryann Cove & Veronica A. |
| Nov. 17 – Lynn Bailey | Dec. 15 – Pastor Ron |
| Nov. 24 – Cynthia | Dec. 22 – Kathy Kreie |
| | Dec. 29 - |



BIBLE STUDY GROUP: The Wednesday Bible Study Group's "Gospel in Life" study written by Timothy Keller is finishing with a joint project in which we are helping the Townley Pre-School with their "Trunk or Treat" on **Halloween, Thursday 31st** in the back parking lot. We will be providing two vehicle trunks for this collaborative effort. Setup is at 1:00pm, with the children arriving at 1:30pm. We are looking forward to seeing all the little ones dressed up in costume!

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME – Be sure to **turn your clock back** one hour on Saturday night, **November 2.**

NURSING HOME VISITATION: Our nursing home ministry is held at AristaCare, located at 400 W. Stimpson Avenue in Linden on every **second Sunday** at 2:00pm of each month. Please see Pastor Ron if you are interested in being a part of this ministry.

THE SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ – Presents Robert Hill Band on **Saturday, November 9, 2024, at 8:00 pm.** Doors will open at 7:30 pm. As always, the Salem Roadhouse Café is lively, intimate, up front, and personal. All ages are welcome. See attached flier.

UNION COUNTY INTERFAITH – DAY OF PRAYER: Please join us for an annual Interfaith Celebration of Community which is being presented by The Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council for a Day of Prayer “Inclusion Amidst Diversity” on **Thursday, November 14 at 7:00pm**. This is being held at St. Helen’s Roman Catholic Church located at 1600 Rahway Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090.

SESSION MEETING: The next session meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 20, 2024**, at 7:30 pm in the upstairs meeting room. (Session meetings are usually held the 3rd Wednesday of each month.)

CHERISH THE CHURCH: Cherish the Church Fund’s total is \$30,184.00.

SESSION WORKS



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

- ✓ Pastor and Task Force Monthly Reports
- ✓ Veteran Backpack Project
- ✓ PDA Donation
- ✓ 2025 Calendar:
- ✓ Sweetheart Brunch
- ✓ Rummage Sale
- ✓ Christmas Dinner/Sounds of the Season

Please note that you do not have to be on Session to work on a committee. Your talents are needed.

THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY: The next meeting of the Presbytery is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 19, 2024**, at 6:30 pm via Zoom. Website <https://pnenj.org>



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.

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.



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.



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). Away or missed a service? Catch our Livestream!

2024 WINTER CAMPAIGN HOMELESS VETERANS OUTREACH: We are collecting (new) items for our Homeless Veterans outreach. Please remove price tags and place items into the large labeled container in Bailey Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Heims. The following items are needed:

PAIR OF BOOT SOCKS - SET OF THERMALS – TOP & BOTTOM –
ZIPPED HOODED SWEATSHIRT - ACRYLIC KNIT CAP –
PAIR OF NON-LEATHER WATERPROOF GLOVES

CHRISTMAS PARTY: SAVE THE DATE! This year's Christmas Party will be held on **Saturday, December 7, 2024**, 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. **Cost is \$45 per person, please give to Kathy or Lisa by Sunday, December 1 (no later).**

- **NEW ITEMS NEEDED: Please bring donations and any new items for the gift baskets to Lisa or Kathy by Saturday, November 9.** 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. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS "SOUNDS OF THE SEASON": Mark your calendar for this special musical Christmas show on **Saturday, December 14, 2024**. We extend an invitation to all Townley Church members to help with running the show. We need ushers, people at the front greeting table, and general help in many places. If you're interested in helping, please contact Ruth Ammerman. We also need your help with promoting the show. We encourage you to share the flyer and to extend an invitation to see the show to your friends and family. See attached flier.

SWEETHEART VALENTINE'S DAY BRUNCH – is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, February 9, 2025.

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE - is tentatively scheduled for May 2 & 3, 2025.

REGARDING RULING ELDERS: A MONTHLY SERIES FOR SERVING FAITHFULLY

*Where is the Place God is Leading You?
By Valerie Izumi – October 15, 2024*



A few years ago, ruling elder Clara Harper, then a member at Highland Presbyterian Church in Louisville, Kentucky, was eager to get more involved. She felt she had exhausted earlier options for service — engagement in youth group, the Montreat Youth Conference Planning Team, and Presbyterian Youth Triennium. She was open to serve as a ruling elder as an opportunity to respond to a call she had been experiencing to take the next step into leadership within the church without needing to go to seminary.

The daughter of a minister and a church professional in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Clara experienced the journey that her mother and father traveled through their training and ministry. She respected their processes and their calls, but Clara knew that while she wanted to be involved in a deeper way, she was called to something else — something different than her parents.

As a young child she toyed with the possibility that she should be a youth minister like her dad. She knew she liked being around other people, liked sharing and being part of the hands and feet of Christ. But still it was clear to her that a seminary degree was not for her. She was clear that there was more than one way to be in servant leadership. After a period of prayer and discernment, she was able to say “yes” to the invitation to serve the congregation as a ruling elder.

“I had graduated high school and I was kind of excited to take on a role with a more adult perspective, even though I was only 19! It's funny to look back now — to think I was so adult,” Clara said. “But it was really something I felt called to do, and I really enjoyed serving communion; that was one of the things I enjoyed most.”

Interestingly, although Clara did not follow the path to ministry with youth in the church, she is definitely ministering to young people as the assistant director of admissions and coordinator of Westminster Scholars at her alma mater, Austin College in Sherman, Texas. Clara serves in the admissions office recruiting students, reading their applications and making decisions about who to accept for admission. Beyond the walls of the congregation, Clara is clearly using the gift of discernment she developed as a ruling elder.

The Westminster Scholar Awards that Clara coordinates serve to provide “a college experience designed to help [a Presbyterian student] lead a transformative life.” With a bequest of \$20 million, beginning in 2024-25 Austin College is able to offer “full tuition for students on the membership roll of a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) church,” and, in addition, the award covers “housing and meal plan costs for the children of full-time PC(USA) clergy and staff.”

The opportunity to speak with youth and their families during one-on-one visits to congregations during Sunday worship is one of the rewarding aspects of Clara’s call and her position with Austin College. Expressions of gratitude from parents and students when they receive the news of the gift they are receiving are often accompanied by handwritten letters and tears. “Which is very sweet, but I’m not the one giving them the money. I am just the messenger!” Clara remarked.

Ruling elder Clara Harper may not have become a youth minister like her dad, but she is certainly ministering to youth as a faithful ruling elder, praying for and serving the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.

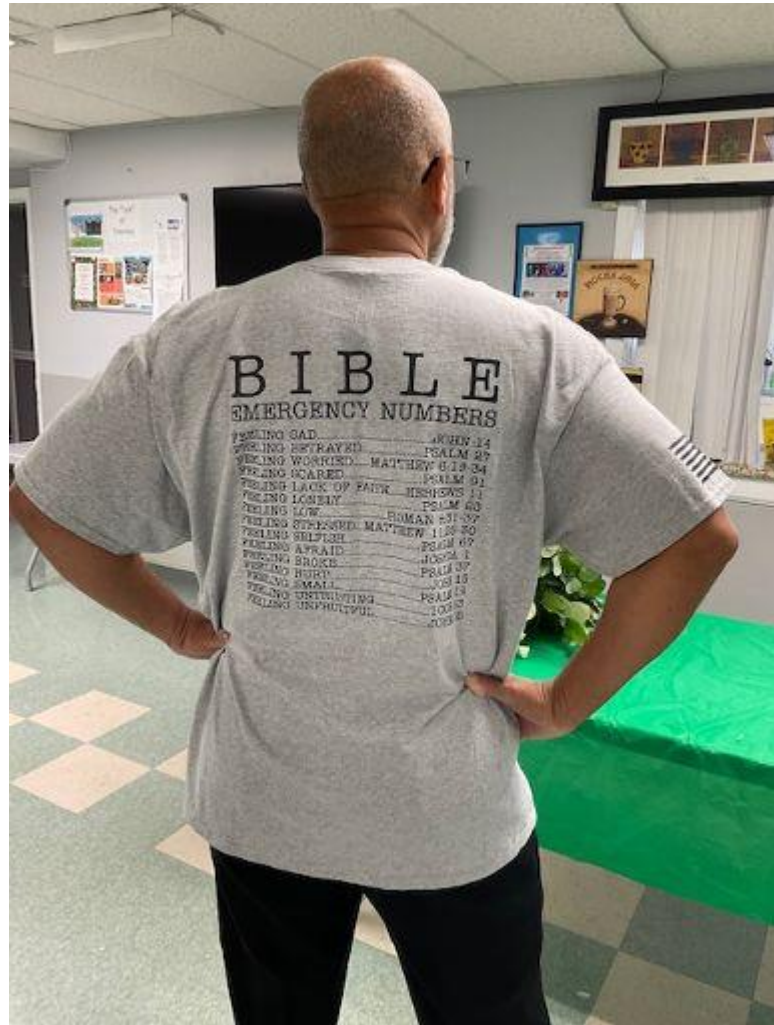
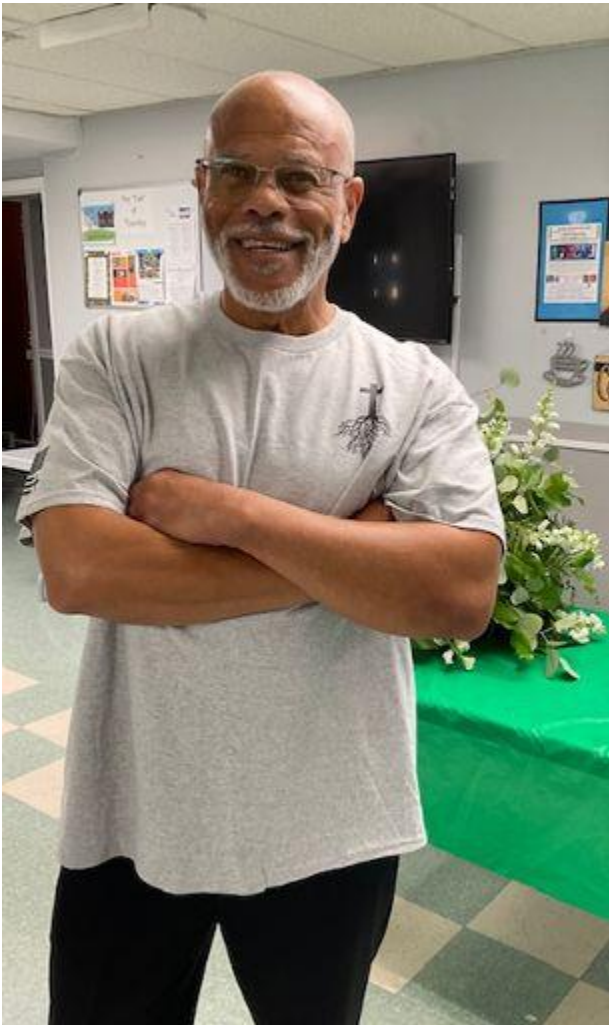
COMMUNITY NEWS

UNION’S GOT TALENT!



On Sunday, November 17, 2024 “Union’s Got Talent” show is 4:00pm.to 8:00pm. It will take place at 2350 North 3rd Street Union, NJ 07083. Tickets are \$25.00 and can be purchased online at: <UnionsGotTalent.org> Get ready for an unforgettable evening as **Union’s Got Talent** returns, showcasing the best performers from across Union County! This highly anticipated talent competition will feature acts in a variety of categories, including singing, dancing, comedy, and more. From aspiring young stars to seasoned adult performers, the stage will be packed with exciting performances that will leave you entertained and inspired. Audience members can expect an exciting competition filled with energy, creativity, and fierce talent as participants battle for the top prize. Organized by Union Special Improvement District (SID).

PASTOR'S APPRECIATION DAY: We recognized Pastor Ron for his commitment to our congregation on Pastor Appreciation Day, Sunday, October 13, 2024 by presenting him with a special T-shirt. Here is Pastor Ron modeling it for us!



GIVE THANKS
By Henry Smith



Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich"
Because of what the Lord has done for us"
Give thanks

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