

“THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

Monthly Newsletter
OCTOBER 2021

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10 John Santiago
19 William Jensen

PASTOR’S MESSAGE:

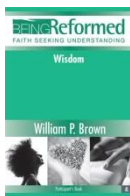
A Spirit of Generosity

Generosity is easily defined as the quality of being kind and generous. Our lives as Christians are to be generous lives - simply because of what we have already received. This realization invokes gratitude. The Apostle Paul teaches us in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 to: “Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God for you.” True gratitude comes from realizing that you have been given something you didn’t deserve, that you didn’t earn, that the giver was not obligated to give. Gratitude breeds generosity.

Jesus illustrated an example of generosity in his story of the “Good Samaritan”. In Luke 10:34, Jesus describes this outflow of generosity: “He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn and took care of him.” The Samaritan was “good” because of his gratitude for what had already been given him, led him to have *A Spirit of Generosity*.

How about us? How many ways can we think of to be generous as we go about our day? Again, the Apostle Paul adds: “For, as I can testify, (the Macedonians) voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints.” (2 Corinthians 8:3-4). Are we part of this community, the church, for what we can get, or for what we can give. Let us have *A Spirit of Generosity*.

BIBLE STUDY: Please join us for weekly Bible Study, which started Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 6:30 pm., and will continue for six 1 hour sessions exploring the wisdom of God through the testimony of Scripture. We will be learning from wisdom texts about God, about ourselves, and about our responsibilities for the care of the world. Please see Pastor Ron for your book.



RUMMAGE SALE: Fall Rummage Sale will be held on Friday, October 15th 9am-6pm and Saturday, October 16th 9am-Noon. The set up will begin on Saturday, October 9th 10am-12pm. Items may be dropped off Sunday, 10/10 through Thursday, 10/14. The schedule for organizing the donations is: Sunday 10/10 after service, Monday 10/11 through Thursday 10/14 from 10:30am-1pm and 7pm-9pm. See attached flier for more information. Please let Janet, Linda Z., or Glen Z. know if and when you are available to help.



NOTARY PUBLIC: Lisa Heims and Bruce Tangowski are both Notary Publics and are happy to notarize any documents requiring a notary, free of charge to all Townley Church members.

SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS FOR OCTOBER:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>*ELDER-IN-CHARGE</u>	<u>*LAY LEADER</u>
OCT. 3	June Donohue	Carruthers Tumfour
OCT. 10	Lois Tangowski	Maryann Cove
OCT. 17	Carol Gordon	Cynthia Manno
OCT. 24	Janet Sangekar	Lynn Bailey
OCT. 31	Lisa Heims	Irene Schoenwalder
NOV. 7	Linda Zehner	Kathy Kreie
NOV. 14	Carruthers Tumfour	Diane Smith



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

"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

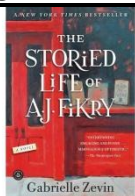
MISSION: June D. asks everyone to please remember the Connecticut Farms Food Pantry. While donations of non-perishable items can be accepted on Sunday mornings at 11:00 AM, you are encouraged to support this ministry with a monthly monetary donation of \$4.00– a dollar a week can bring food to an empty pantry. Please mail donation to Townley Church for distribution.



Our food pantry is in need of pasta sauce, peanut butter and jelly.

We will once again be participating in Operation Christmas Child. Boxes will be available in October.

TOWNLEY BOOK CLUB: Our next book is ***The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin**.



"Gabrielle Zevin's enchanting novel is a love letter to the world of books--and booksellers - that changes our lives by giving us the stories that open our hearts and enlighten our minds." Thank you, Lois Tangowski for the suggestion. We will discuss it on Monday, October 4, at 7:00 PM. Weather permitting we will meet outside on the church lawn. Please bring a chair. Let's also bring snacks to share! Cecelia Harrison

SESSION MEETING: Will be held on Wednesday, October 20, at 7:30 pm.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: If you have any items that you would like to have included in November'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:



COMMUNITY MEMORIAL SERVICE: On September 29th at 7:00 pm The UCICC invites you to a Community Memorial Service to honor and remember friends, family and congregants who lost their lives during the COVID-19 pandemic. They will have a memorial setup where everyone can bring ribbons, flowers and notes to post in their loved ones' memory. Ribbons and flowers will also be available for those who may need them at the time of the service. The Parish Community of St. Helen in Westfield, has graciously offered to host this event. The Service will be held outside and will begin at 7 PM. Please look for further information as the event gets closer. If you are unable to attend, please feel free to email Elder Skip Winter the names of friends, family and congregants @ ahwinterjr@aol.com and they will be read at the service.

UNION COUNTY DAY OF PRAYER: The Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council is hosting its Union County Day of Prayer on October 6, 2021 at 7 p.m. at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, 315



1st St., Westfield, NJ to memorialize those we have lost to the myriad tragedies brought about through the COVID-19 pandemic. Together, we will all take a moment together to simply breathe and appreciate the opportunity to continue to do so. We have lost so much together, and now it is time to name those losses as an interfaith community. We cannot go forward together if we do not look back together. We cannot grasp our collective futures until we have come to terms with what has come before. We need to wrestle together with all of our losses – losses of life, financial security, mental health, employment, communal solidarity, and even a healthy sense of self.

"SOUNDS OF THE SEASON - A FREE HOLIDAY CONCERT": This coming December 3rd, 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.](#)

Among the topics to be presented: How to Distinguish Between Acute Anxiety and Chronic Anxiety, How the Scapegoating Process Impacts Church Conflict, and How to Enhance Your Role as a Leader in the Church. For more information, see the attached brochure from the LMPC. To register, follow the link below. [Download the Flyer](#) [REGISTER](#)

COMMUNITY SERVICE SPOTLIGHT



Townley's own Bruce Tangowski has become a docent at the Thomas Edison National Historic Park, which is one of the National Park Service's treasures right here in West Orange, NJ.

Bruce has always had a fascination with Thomas Edison and has visited the park so many times over the years that he's become very familiar with the museum. Several years ago, during a major renovation project, Bruce even managed to design and install their networked fire alarm system to protect the treasures within.

Roughly two years ago, while guiding relatives from Ohio through the site while they visited NJ, a Park Ranger noticed Bruce guiding and explaining the displays and features of the park to his in-laws and approached him while the family watched a film in the Visitors Center. After chatting for a few minutes, the ranger convinced Bruce to apply to become a VIP (Volunteer-In-Parks) docent. (A docent is a person who acts as a guide, typically on a voluntary basis, in a museum, art gallery, or zoo). After discussing it with Lois and hearing her enthusiastic encouragement of it, Bruce submitted the application and soon interviewed with the Rangers and managers who coordinate the volunteers and became an official VIP.



Bruce’s official start was in January of 2020, when he worked alternate Saturdays and Sundays learning the position and working directly with visitors. Says Bruce, “I learned so much about the museum and met so many wonderful visitors and families that I gained a sense of the importance of what I was doing and had fun explaining things. My favorite hangout in the museum was Edison’s library, where I started to develop a talk specifically about the library, called a GEM by the Park managers. I was so looking forward to having it approved as a regular park presentation topic and was thrilled that this was an area that no-one had developed previously.”

All of it ended abruptly in March 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, which shut down everything. During the shut-down Bruce researched and read numerous books about Thomas Edison and the many other people who were involved with him, such as Nikola Tesla, and further developed his GEM program. Park employees and VIP’s stayed in touch frequently during this time with ZOOM and phone meetings, all the while eagerly hoping they could come back. That day became reality in September 2021, when the Park re-opened to a large extent and volunteers were allowed to return. Bruce re-started his volunteer guide work on September 11 and will work alternate Saturdays and Sundays from now until December, after which the park will close for a couple months for a winter break. Of course, he will return in the spring of 2022 when the park re-opens.

If you’d like to visit the park and see him working, just come by any time on a weekend, but check with him first to see if he’s on schedule to be there. VIP’s are assigned different areas during their shifts so he could be in any location within the site. Personally led tours are not allowed, but Bruce would love to see you there and will be happy to talk about wherever he’s assigned.

Bruce’s tentative schedule:

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 11th
 Sunday 19th
 Saturday 25th

OCTOBER

Sunday 3rd
 Saturday 9th
 Sunday 17th
 Saturday 30th

NOVEMBER

Sunday 7th
 Saturday 13th
 Sunday 21th
 Saturday 27th

Park hours are 11AM to 4PM

REGARDING RULING ELDERS: A MONTHLY SERIES FOR SERVING FAITHFULLY

Leaders Taste by Rodger Nishioka – September 15, 2021

“O taste and see that the Lord is good ...” (Psalm 34:8)

Leaders taste. I am a fan of church potluck suppers. Being nurtured at the Japanese Presbyterian Church in Seattle, I have memories of tables overflowing with sushi and teriyaki chicken. I remember Mom getting up early on Sunday morning to make the dish for the potluck and my mouth watering as we drove to church with the food. Neuroscientists talk about our senses of taste and smell as being our strongest memory triggers.

Jesus ate a lot. In the gospels, it seems that at every turn Jesus was sitting down and eating. From the feeding miracles to eating with sinners to the Last Supper, much of Jesus’ life happened at meals. Theologian Fred Craddock said it was a good thing Jesus walked everywhere because otherwise he would have easily weighed 300 pounds.

For our Jewish and Muslim sisters and brothers, sitting down with others and breaking bread with them is sacred. We Christians are no different. There is something beautiful and powerful when we sit down with others, give thanks for the meal, and then eat together. When we sit down with others and eat with them, we are sharing our lives as well as food. This is what makes the moment so sacred.

Several years ago I was in worship on World Communion Sunday, the day when Christians across denominational lines share in the Lord’s Supper around the globe. I was surprised and delighted when the plate of Christ’s body was passed to me because it held a combination of white bread, dark bread, tortillas, naan, and Korean rice cakes, all in small piles. I took one of the rice cakes and passed the plate on to seven-year-old Miller. He too was clearly surprised by the different breads on the plate. At first, he passed the plate on to his mother, and I was afraid this was too strange for him. But then he told his mom to hold the plate as reached out and took a morsel from each of the piles. He snacked for the rest of the worship service. Later he told me his favorite was the naan. In tasting the different breads, the tortillas, the naan, and the rice cakes, we tasted the goodness of God in Jesus Christ.

Leaders taste. We sit down together and break bread with loved ones and strangers alike. We are welcomed to the table, and we welcome others. And as we eat together, we discover what is sacred and holy once again.

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 **ninth** 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.*

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