

# “THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

Monthly Newsletter  
OCTOBER 2022

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

15 Ruth Ammerman  
19 William Jensen  
26 Suzanne Deller

### PASTOR’S MESSAGE:

#### TOWNLEY’S STANDING

How do you rate the following items’ importance against our church? **More** or **Less** – don’t worry, I can’t see your responses!

Sports \_\_\_\_\_

Entertainment\_\_\_\_\_

Lunch\_\_\_\_\_

Vacations\_\_\_\_\_

Family \_\_\_\_\_

Jobs \_\_\_\_\_

Have the things of God become secondary in our lives? I believe that we make a mistake in prioritizing everything as more important than gathering together with other like-minded followers of Jesus for corporate worship and the teaching and preaching of God’s Word. This is our “bread and butter”. There is no such thing as a lone ranger Christian. We are designed for community. God instilled in us a longing for fellowship with Him and each other.

There are 3 reasons why the local church not only matters but is relevant today, tomorrow, and until Jesus comes back.

#### **1. The church helps us combat our fears**

We live in a world full of fear. Every day the evening news gives us something new to be fearful of. But God tells us in His Word to “not fear.” Isaiah 41:10 says, *“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will hold on to you with my righteous right hand.”* (CSB)

When we are involved in the local church, our brothers and sisters in Christ can challenge, remind and encourage us to not be fearful because God says He will “hold on to you with my righteous right hand.” The local church is a place to be reminded to fear not and trust God!

#### **2. The church is a house of prayer**

Isaiah 56:7 says, *“I will bring them to my holy mountain and let them rejoice in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be acceptable on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.”* (CSB)

Many churches have become houses of entertainment, and idolatry, and care more about who is on stage than who is sitting in the pews. The local church matters because it’s a place where we can pray and find prayer. When that happens, people can find other brothers and sisters in Christ to surround them in prayer because we all know the world we live in is

hard, unloving, and full of darkness. The local church can be light in a dark world and prayer is a way for us to connect with God, and hear His heart so He can realign our hearts with His.

### 3. The church is God's only plan to tell others to follow Jesus

People are God's *Plan A* to reach a lost world with the Gospel. There is no *Plan B*. The local church is God's megaphone to a fallen world that's desperately in need of a Savior. Before Jesus ascended back to heaven, He gave this command to His followers in Matthew 28:19-20: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (CSB).

Notice Jesus never gave this command to the angels. His mission has always been to use people...broken people to be exact. The local church is the place that exhibits God's grace and love, in practice, to a world that desperately needs a touch from God.

God's grace empowers the local church to bring the Gospel to a fallen world. Let's be that church and be on a mission to tell the world about Jesus. It's our mission to build up, edify, and bring the Gospel to all nations.

### Salem Roadhouse Café Announces ZUKO, PHILIPS, COHN & STARR

The **SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ** presents Zuko, Philips, Cohn & Starr, with opening act by Melinda Davis **Saturday, 8 October 2022**. The doors open at 7:00 PM.

Zuko, Philips, Cohn & Starr have carved themselves a unique niche within the realm of rock classic tunes. Focused mostly on vocals and light accompaniment with a pair of guitars and a djembe for rhythm, this group of very talented and familiar Roadhouse performers has taken classic rock tunes we all know and love and put a lighter spin on them. The usual trappings of rock with it's requisite "wall of sound" is avoided, making the lyrics and tunes able to be heard clearly. Focused on rich harmonies, their sound is catching on like wildfire. Come and hear songs as you've never heard them before!

Opener Melinda Davis was the premier performer of the Salem Roadhouse Café 15 years ago. Melinda has graced the stage many times with her original tunes, expert guitar work and powerful yet angelic voice.

As always, the Salem Roadhouse Café is live, intimate, up front, and personal. All ages are welcome.

- Zuko, Philips, Cohn & Starr: 8 October 2022.
- SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ, 829 Salem Rd., Union, NJ 07083
- Doors open 7:00PM. Show starts at 7:30PM.
- 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.

|   |   |
|---|---|
|  | Join us for Gospel Brunch on <b>Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup></b> . This will be a service held in Bailey Hall the morning after Roadhouse performance. Let's describe it as: " <i>Good News, Good Music, and Good Food</i> ". Service starts at 10:00 AM. |
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**SESSION MEETING:** The next session meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 17, 2022 at 7:30 pm. (Session meetings have been changed to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month.)

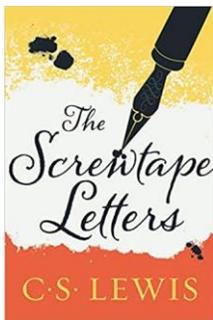
**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** If you have any items you would like to have included in November's (monthly) newsletter, please e-mail them to [CeceliaH@comcast.net](mailto:CeceliaH@comcast.net).

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:** On October 2<sup>nd</sup> Linda Zehner will be distributing shoeboxes to be filled with items for a needy child. Please return filled containers to Linda by November 13<sup>th</sup>.



**THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY:** The next Stated Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, 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>

**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 of this 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

**SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS FOR OCTOBER & NOVEMBER:**

| DATE        | *ELDER-IN-CHARGE   | *LAY LEADER        |
|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| October 2   | Carol Gordon       | Cynthia Manno      |
| October 9   | Kathy Kreie        | Lynn Bailey        |
| October 16  | June Donohue       | Irene Schoenwalder |
| October 23  | Janet Sangekar     | Kathy Kreie        |
| October 30  | Lisa Heims         | Diane Smith        |
| November 6  | Irene Schoenwalder | Lisa Heims         |
| November 13 | Linda Zehner       | Bruce Tangowski    |
| November 20 | Carruthers Tumfour | Vyonnia Thompson   |
| November 27 | Carol Gordon       | Carruthers Tumfour |



\* 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.

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

**MISSION:** In June we received a thank you letter for the \$1,130 check we sent for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

- Our June rummage sale netted \$4,000. From the proceeds, we sent a check in the amount of \$1,500 to Camp Johnsonburg for their capital improvement campaign on July 13th.
- A \$500 check was sent to Camp Johnsonburg for our yearly scholarship pledge.
- In July, a \$50 check was sent to Connecticut Farms Food Bank.
- One of our renters gave us an additional \$100 with their deposit as a donation to the church.
- The \$530 proceeds from Howard Bryant's evening will be sent to the San Francisco Theology Seminary in his honor.
- Our National Night Out was well attended. We raised \$500 to be donated to various area food ministries.
- We received thank you letters from the following recipients for our donations: YWCA of Union County, Presbyterian Mission Engagement & Support, Camp Johnsonburg for the capital improvement campaign and scholarship, and Connecticut Farms Food Pantry.



**Please remember the Connecticut Farms Food Pantry. You are encouraged to support this ministry with a monthly donation of \$4.00 to bring food to an empty pantry. The food bank would prefer a monetary donation so they can purchase what is needed.**

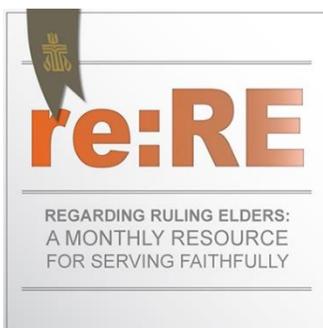
**SAVE THE DATE:** This year's Christmas Party will be held on **Saturday, December 10, 2022**, at 5:00 PM. Due to popular request, it was decided to be held again at La Casa Di Martino, 301 West Clay Avenue, Roselle Park, NJ 07204. The price will be \$35.00 per person due to a price increase.



- **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!

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

*To Be Not Just To Do - Question H by Julie Hester – September 15, 2022*



*Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?*

In August, Presbyterian theologian and author Frederick Buechner died at age 96. You may have benefitted from his prolific writing in a sermon or lesson when a preacher or teacher quoted him, and your ears tingled with his remarkable way of mixing theological truth and rich storytelling.

The excellent essay in *Coming Alive in Christ: Training for PC(USA) Ruling Elders and Deacons based on the Constitutional Questions* about this month's ordination question begins with Buechner's description of Christian vocation from his book "Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC."

*"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."*

Simply put: your individual call to ministry in the church connects your deepest gladness with the world's deepest hunger. Using your unique gladness, gifts, and graces in service to God's yearning world requires your particular balance of energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. Your way of living out your calling is unlike anyone else's.

You could read this ordination promise as a to-do list: use more energy, attain more intelligence, develop more imagination, and show more love. I'm tired just typing that, and ready to skip the next session meeting out of a sense of inadequacy.

Or, you could read and affirm this promise as a call to nurture yourself, so that you can lead. Less a *to-do* list and more a *to-be* list.

- To be a leader with energy, you promise to seek ways to sustain your own energy. How will you rest and find sabbath during your term as a leader? What restores your soul? Go there. Do that. It's part of your call.
- To be a leader with intelligence, you promise to keep learning. This means not only the Bible and theology but also subjects and situations where your deep gladness is engaged. Keep your God-given intelligence curious and active, whether it's busy with bee-keeping, book-reading, or business practices. It will all enrich your service as an officer.
- To be a leader with imagination, you promise to stay open to experiences that enlarge your vision. Listen to new voices. Seek out creative art. Play a game with a child. Take a slow walk. As you practice diverse ways to imagine, invite God to open your ears, eyes, and heart to new possibilities for yourself and your community.
- To be a leader with love, you promise to love and let yourself be loved, as one who is beloved. You and those you seek to love are all God's beloved. How will you practice love as an officer? This requires more than showing up at meetings and making informed and prayerful decisions. It means bringing your whole self into your ministry, and greeting others as whole human beings, made in God's image, beloved by the Creator just as you are.

In thinking about this question, my ears are typically drawn to the end of it: the promising of our energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. Now, I am noticing the beginning. We are not promising that we have these resources in abundance, ready to go. We are asked if we will *pray for* and *seek to serve [God's] people with* them. There will be days we feel a lack of energy or intelligence. There may be seasons when our imagination sputters out rather than soaring. There will always be the need to pray for and seek more love. Meeting the world's

deep hunger with our deep gladness is an ongoing task of becoming more fully who God made us each to be.

May you continue to *be*, as well as to *do*, as you pray for and seek to serve with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.

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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 ninth 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.**

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**Email: [TownleyChurch@yahoo.com](mailto:TownleyChurch@yahoo.com) Website: [TownleyChurch.org](http://TownleyChurch.org)**  
**Facebook: Like us on "Townley Church"**

## OCTOBER'S PARTY

By George Cooper

October gave a party;  
The leaves by hundreds came –  
    The Chestnuts, Oaks, and Maples,  
    And leaves of every name.  
The Sunshine spread a carpet,  
    And everything was grand,  
Miss Weather led the dancing,  
    Professor Wind the band.

The Chestnuts came in yellow,  
The Oaks in crimson dressed;  
    The lovely Misses Maple  
    In scarlet looked their best;  
All balanced to their partners,

And gaily fluttered by;  
The sight was like a rainbow  
New fallen from the sky.

Then, in the rustic hollow,  
At hide-and-seek they played,  
    The party closed at sundown,  
    And everybody stayed.  
Professor Wind played louder;  
They flew along the ground;  
    And then the party ended  
    In jolly "hands around."

# SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ

*This Month - Rock featuring....*

## ZUKO, PHILIPS, COHN & STARR

### W/ OPENING *by* MELINDA DAVIS

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 7:30 PM**

**DOORS OPEN AT 7:00 PM ADMISSION: \$20.00 STUDENTS \$15.00**

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



ZUKO, PHILIPS, COHN & STARR have carved themselves a unique niche within the realm of rock classic tunes. Focused mainly on vocals and light accompaniment with a pair of guitars and a djembe for rhythm, this group of very talented and familiar Roadhouse performers has taken classic rock tunes we all know and love and elevated them at a higher musical level. The usual trappings of rock with it's requisite "wall of sound" is avoided, making the lyrics and tunes able to be heard clearly. Focused on rich harmonies, their sound is catching on like wildfire. Come and hear songs as you've never heard them before!

MELINDA DAVIS, who has the distinction of being the very first booked act of the Roadhouse Café, will return as opener for ZPCS. Melinda has her own unique style with original tunes, accompanied by her excellent guitar work and angelic yet powerful voice.

2019 Show proceeds will benefit  
**YWCA Union County PALS program**

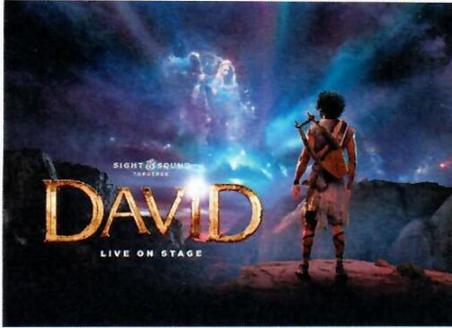
eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**  
union county

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)



Join Rev. Daniel Martian  
 Presbyterian Church of Livingston  
 Sue Taylor  
 Livingston United Methodist Church  
 for the new show

**David**  
 at  
**Sight & Sound Theatre**

**Wednesday, November 16, 2022**

Poet. Fearless Warrior. Anointed King. From still waters to shadowed valleys, David's ascent to the throne is filled with towering giants, wild animals, and Philistine soldiers. After unprecedented victories lead to devastating failures, this passionate warrior will face the biggest battle of all: the one within himself. Come alongside this young shepherd on his journey to become *a man after God's own heart*. With original music inspired by the Psalms, DAVID is a state-of-the-art theatrical experience for the whole family. Witness one of the most legendary Bible stories as it comes to life with spectacular special effects, massive sets, and live animals in this brand-new stage production. Lunch is also included before the show.

**Details**

**Departs:** Presbyterian Church of Livingston\* at 9:00 am

**Returns:** Approximately 9:00 pm

**Meal:** Hershey Farm Smorgasbord

\*271 W Northfield Rd., Livingston

*Cancellation policy: \$30.00 per person before October 1, 2022; after, non-refundable unless ticket is re-sold.*

**\$164.00 per person**

Contact Long's Travel  
 with questions:  
 973-538-1700

*Make checks payable and mail to:*



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**Sight & Sound "David" - Wednesday, November 16, 2022**

Enclosed is my check of \$164.00 per person for \_\_\_\_ person(s).

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*Cancellation policy: \$30.00 per person before October 1, 2022; after, non-refundable unless ticket is re-sold.  
 COVID regulations: A Covid-19 vaccination is required for this trip, bring your card with you or email/text it to us in advance. Masks must be worn getting on and off the bus. Long's Travel and associated vendors and sponsors are not liable for any situation arising from Covid-19 circumstances.*