

# “THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

*Monthly Newsletter*  
**OCTOBER 2024**

*Be careful how you think; your life is shaped by your thoughts. Proverbs 4:23*

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

15 Ruth Ammerman  
19 William Jensen  
26 Suzanne Deller

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE:

### **Rally Day is October 6**

Rally Day typically marks the beginning of the church calendar year. It may occur in September or early October. The customs associated with it vary quite a bit from parades and picnics to special church meetings where goals for the coming year are presented. Rally Day is a good time to rally” around our church’s Task Forces as they begin their planning for 2024.

Task Forces? Yes, Task Forces. Task Forces are the way in which our Session accomplishes its work. There are three Task Forces: **Support, Program and Vocation.**

- The **Support Task Force** handles things like: Finances & Budget, Buildings & Grounds, Rentals (leases) and Personnel. Janet Sangekar leads the financials and Irene Schoenwalder leads Buildings and Grounds.
- The **Program Task Force** tackles Evangelism, Mission/Outreach, Stewardship, Congregational Care, Fellowship, Roadhouse, and Media Outreach (Webpage, Newsletter, Facebook, Advertising). Lisa Heims is the lead.
- The **Vocation Task Force** covers Christian Ed. (Sunday School, Bible Study, Confirmation Classes, Youth Activities, Monday Prayer Group, etc.), Leadership Development, Worship, and Music. Diane Smith is the lead.

As you might sense, the responsibilities of Townley’s Task Forces are quite extensive and important. Elders of our Session are assigned to each Task Force to not only provide oversight, but are actively engaged in its respective workings. Here’s where you come in. ***You need not be an elder to be involved in the work of our various task forces.*** In fact, you are invited and encouraged to participate in that work.

Let us use Rally Day as an opportunity to get to know the work and people associated with our Task Forces. Immediately after our morning worship service on the 6<sup>th</sup>, you can meet and greet those involved in this work in Bailey Hall. My hope and prayer is that with a better understanding of our Task Forces, you might avail yourself to this important work of our church. Volunteers are welcome to be a part of one or more of our task forces.



# GOSPEL BRUNCH

Join us for our Gospel Brunch on **Sunday, October 6**. "Good News, Good Music, and Good Food." Service starts at 10:00 AM.

## SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>*ELDER-IN-CHARGE</u>	<u>*LAY LEADER</u>	<u>COMMUNION</u>
Sept. 1	Kathy Kreie	Bruce Tangowski	Kathy & Bruce
Sept. 8	Irene Schoenwalder	Vyonnia Thompson	
Sept. 15	Lisa Heims	Tonya Moses	
Sept. 22	Marty Lindner	Cynthia Manno	
Sept. 29	Linda Zehner	Diane Smith	
Oct. 6	Janet Sangekar	Lynn Bailey	Janet & Lynn
Oct. 13	Carol Gordon	Lisa Heims	
Oct. 20	Karen Brelowski	Kathy Kreie	
Oct. 27	Janet Sangekar	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, 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.

- Oct. 6 - Gospel Brunch
- Oct. 13
- Oct. 20 – Marie Lindner
- Oct. 27 – Pastor Ron

**BIBLE STUDY** Our current Bible Study is on Wednesdays at noon. The ***Gospel in Life*** study written by Timothy Keller begins with the city, your home now, the world that is. Throughout this eight-week ascent--from earthly work to the final revelation of grace--we'll learn how the gospel can change our heart, our community, and how we can live as a disciple of Jesus Christ in this world, right now, even as you look forward to the promise we have in him.

**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 Zuko, Phillips, Cohn & Starr with opening act Melinda Davis on **Saturday, October 5, 2024, at 8:00 pm**. Doors will open at 7:00 pm. As always, the Salem Roadhouse Café is lively, intimate, up front, and personal. All ages are welcome. See attached flier.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We are looking for volunteers for an Outreach to Nested Self-Help Groups. If you think you might be interested, please see Pastor Ron.

**SESSION MEETING:** The next session meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 16, 2024**, at 7:30 pm in the upstairs meeting room. (Session meetings are usually held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.)

### **SESSION WORKS**



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

- ✓ Task Force Reports (less financials)
- ✓ Rally Day Planning
- ✓ Caring for God’s Creation

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 **November’s** (monthly) newsletter, please e-mail them to [CeceliaH@comcast.net](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:townleychurch@yahoo.com)). Away or missed a service? Catch our Livestream!

**PROGRAMS:** We received a donation of \$150 for the Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church's Food Pantry.

**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**. Watch for future announcements.

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

*Caring for God's Creation*

*By Marissa Galvan-Valle – September 16, 2024*



The beginning of fall and a new school year also brings the start of new children's curriculum in the church. It seems like almost every year, the first highlight is one of the most wonderful stories of the Bible: Genesis 1, the story of Creation. Within it is the reminder that, even if we cannot remember the specific aspect of Creation on each day, the most important thing the author wants us to remember is this phrase: "And God saw that it was good."

In Hebrew, the word "good" is translated as טוב (tov), and it holds deep and multifaceted meanings, especially in the context of the Genesis story. Tov generally means "good" in the sense of being pleasant, functional, or desirable. It encompasses goodness in a broad sense — something that is beneficial, pleasing, or in harmony with its purpose. It speaks to wholeness and completeness, about something fully functional, complete, and fulfilling. Each element of creation is in its right place, contributing to the balance of the world. Tov can also reflect Creation's alignment with God's will. Each created thing is good because it fits within God's design for the world, and it is deserving of God's love. Creation reflects the divine order and intention of God, functioning as it was meant to. In some cases, tov also implies that Creation is not just functional but also pleasing and beautiful. God delights in the goodness of Creation, and we should as well.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has a well-established commitment to caring for Creation, rooted in its understanding of the Bible, theology and social justice. Creation is very good! It sees care for God's Creation as an essential part of Christian faith and discipleship, recognizing our role as stewards of the Earth. Human beings are not owners of Creation but caretakers, responsible for its sustainability and flourishing for future generations. The church also recognizes that the need for environmental justice

is urgent, and that environmental degradation disproportionately impacts marginalized communities — especially poor, Indigenous, and minoritized populations. The PC(USA) General Assembly has adopted several important statements, actions, and documents, including “[Restoring Creation for Ecology and Justice](#),” which outlines a theological and practical approach to Creation care, calling on all Presbyterians to make the restoration of Creation a central mission priority for the church. Also encouraged for consideration is the “[The Earth Care Pledge](#),” which encourages congregations and individuals to engage in practices that reduce their environmental impact, to advocate for environmental policy changes and to work towards sustainability.

Ruling elders can play a vital role in helping members live into the ministry of caring for God's Creation. Lead by example and encourage others by taking concrete steps, such as:

- Organizing or promoting educational programs on environmental stewardship, encouraging members to learn about and discuss the theological importance of caring for Creation.
- Working with the pastor and other church leaders to incorporate themes of Creation care into worship services, prayers and sermons, highlighting the connection between faith and environmental stewardship.
- Collaborating with church leadership to adopt sustainable practices in church operations, such as energy efficiency, waste reduction, and eco-friendly materials for church operations and events.
- Encouraging the congregation to participate in local environmental efforts, such as tree planting, beach clean-ups, recycling drives and advocacy for environmental justice.
- Promoting individual and congregational commitments to lifestyle changes that reflect care for God's Creation, such as reducing plastic use, conserving water and supporting sustainable businesses.

By modeling and encouraging these actions, ruling elders can inspire the congregation to integrate Creation care into the church's faith journey. In doing so, contributions can be made to the church's witness, affirming what Genesis declares — that everything in Creation is pleasant, functional, beneficial, harmonious and beautiful. All that God created is good, and children deserve to inherit a world that reflects God's will and goodness.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Traffic-Free Biking, Jogging, and Walking on upcoming Sunday Mornings on Rahway Ave. in Union



Union residents will be able to enjoy a walk, jog, bike ride, or outdoor play without the worry of traffic when Rahway Avenue closes to vehicular traffic three Sunday mornings in October: October 13, 20 and 27. A one-mile-long stretch of Rahway Avenue, between Morris and Liberty Avenues, will be closed to vehicles from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. during those mornings. A township-sponsored Welcome Table by

Weber Park will be set up for giveaways of a free helmet, hand sanitizer, or a bottle of water. All pets should be leashed. Parking is available in the lot on the corner of Liberty and Rahway Avenues. You still can make worship service!

## Union Police Department's Annual Trunk or Treat Set for Oct. 27



The Union Police Department is once again getting in the Halloween spirit with their annual Trunk or Treat event at police headquarters. The Trunk or Treat festivities include food, thrills, music, prizes and candy. Creative costumes are encouraged for their costume contest. The event will be held at police headquarters, 981 Caldwell Avenue on Sunday, Oct. 27, from 1 to 4 p.m.

The grand opening of **UNION'S NEW LIBRARY** is now scheduled for early 2025. While originally targeted for mid-October, the timeline has been adjusted "to ensure the state-of-the-art facility exceeds expectations and is fully equipped to serve the community for years to come", said Union Business Administrator Don Travisano.

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## THE WIND AND THE LEAVES

By George Cooper

"Come, little leaves," said the wind one day.  
"Come o'er the meadows with me, and play'  
Put on your dress of red and gold,—  
Summer is gone, and the days grow cold."

Soon as the leaves heard the wind's loud call,  
Down they came fluttering, one and all;  
Over the brown fields they danced and flew,  
Singing the soft little songs they knew.

"Cricket, good-by, we've been friends so long;  
Little brook, sing us your farewell song,—  
Say you are sorry to see us go;  
Ah! you will miss us, right well we know."

"Dear little lambs, in your fleecy fold,  
Mother will keep you from harm and cold;  
Fondly we've watched you in vale and glade;  
Say, will you dream of our loving shade?"

Dancing and whirling, the little leaves went;  
Winter had called them, and they were content.  
Soon fast asleep in their earthy beds,  
The snow laid a coverlet over their heads.

