

“THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

Monthly Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2021

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Merle Lyte
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24 Alex Page

PASTOR’S MESSAGE:

“See You in September”

As a kid, I hated this song! Especially the line: “See you when the Summer's through”. I wanted the Summer to last, none of this “bye, baby, goodbye” stuff. No, I was not looking forward to returning from the Summer and starting the “Fall routines” of school and/or work. How about you? Are you ready to return to your “real life”?

We all know that our lives don't just happen. Our lives are built through our decisions and our actions. We should ask ourselves the question: How can we live in a way that will allow us to look back on the lives we've lived and pronounce them good? I believe that the answer is found in Scripture. The Old Testament offers us a taste of the Biblical Wisdom needed so that we can build for ourselves “a good life.” Let's see what God's Wisdom will do for us in September, as this will be the focus of my sermons during the month.

In addition, our weekly **Bible Study will return on Wednesday, September 15, 2021.** Join us 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 me for your book.



A prayer for a hurting world
by Teri McDowell Ott, Presbyterian Outlook

God of mercy, as wildfires and wars rage, earthquakes shake the planet, tropical storms threaten, we are at a loss as to what to say or do. In these moments of anguish and fear and grief, we turn to you in prayer, Holy God, confident that you hear the cries of your people.

As we send our daughters back to school, free to raise their hands in class, free to study and to speak, we pray for the daughters of Afghanistan. We pray for women shrouding themselves in fear, for liberties recently gained to hold despite the new oppressive regime. We pray for the Afghani men—fathers, brothers, sons, uncles— desperately seeking refuge for their families. We pray for all the Afghani people whose lives are trapped in a war zone. We pray for American troops, morally torn over leaving this country and their service behind. Lord, have mercy. Turn us from violence as a justified means for achieving our ends. Guide humanity toward your path of peace.

In your mercy, God, also hear our prayers for Haiti. Why, O God, have the people of Haiti suffered so? How long, O Lord, must your people on this island endure tragedy after tragedy? We pray for this nation rocked by economic crisis, political assassination, a spiraling pandemic, and now an earthquake causing death and destruction. O God, we see the faces of those who have lost their homes and their loved ones. We grieve for your beloved ones and cry out on their behalf. Rescue the people of Haiti, God, desperate for help. Protect them from the next deluge heading their way, from the flooding and the mudslides. Guide us in global mission so our efforts might provide relief and support.

Great God of all, you know us so well. You know our pain. You know our loss. You grieve with us as wildfires consume homes and COVID-19 fills hospital beds. You cry with us as tragedies plague your people. You work beside us in ministry and mission. God of grace, open our eyes, hearts, and hands to the movement of your Spirit in this broken world. Restore hope to the suffering, mend the hearts of the hurting, grant us all the strength to support those in need. As we forage for hope along the path of tragedy, may we bear the good fruit of faith, turning to each other and to you in love. Restore us, Holy God, with your hope.

We pray this in the name of Christ. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF LAURIE



The Parnau family asks you to join them in a Celebration of Life service for Laurie Parnau on Sunday, September 5th. The service time has been changed, please note the new time is 11:00 a.m. at Townley Presbyterian Church. There will be a short “meet and greet” in Fellowship Hall right after the service. The family is inviting everyone to join them at Mario Tutto Benne at approximately 1:00 p.m.

CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF JOSEPH



The Family of Joseph Hastick has decided, due to the rising number of cases of the Delta Variant of COVID-19, to postpone the Celebration of Life Mass for Joseph Hastick to a later day. We have not set a future date as of yet, because we are going to monitor the situation carefully and will let all know of a future date as soon as one is set. It was not an easy decision to make, but to keep everyone safe, we decided to postpone. Thank you for your understanding and look forward to celebrating Joe's life in the future.

SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>*ELDER-IN-CHARGE</u>	<u>*LAY LEADER</u>
SEPT. 5	Linda Zehner	Cecelia Harrison
SEPT. 12	Carruthers Tumfour	Lisa Heims
SEPT. 19	Carol Gordon	Bruce Tangowski
SEPT. 26	Kathy Kreie	Vyonnia Thompson
OCT. 3	June Donohue	Carruthers Tumfour
OCT. 10	Lois Tangowski	Maryann Cove



*** 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.



We received a thank you letter from Presbyterian Mission and Engagement and Support for our participation in One Great Hour of Sharing.

Also, we collected 119 items for the food pantry and delivered them to Connecticut Farms Church.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF MEMBER: Lois Tangowski will be working 5 hours a week in the church office as our Administrative Assistant.

NOTARY PUBLIC: Bruce Tangowski has renewed his Notary Certification for five years and is happy to notarize any documents that anyone has requiring a notary, free to all Townley Church members. All they need to do is ask.

NEW EYES FOR THE NEEDY PROGRAM of recycling used eye glasses has been discontinued as frames are now mostly plastic and cannot recycle the rest. Thank you for your support that for many years, has been given, “New Eyes” for those in need.

SWEET ROOTS: Youth entrepreneurs from Good Success Academies are launching their summer entrepreneur project: a youth-run farm market featuring some of their own produce grown through their participation in the Montclair Community Farmer program. This summer program is the result of the Presbytery's and the Synod of Northeast's investment in the work of Good Success Academies. The attached flyer lists the sale dates - please come support their work! August 21, 28, and September 11. [Download the Flyer](#)



SESSION MEETING: Will be held on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 7:30 pm.

THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY: The next Stated Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 18, 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>



PRESBYTERY OF
NORTHEAST
NEW JERSEY

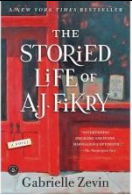
SOUNDS OF SEPTEMBER: Will be held on Saturday, September 18, 2021 – from 6:30 to 7:30pm at our church on the front lawn. The outdoor jazz concert will feature the Dynamic Vocals of Carrie Jackson & The Jazzin’ All Stars. Come and bring your friends! There will be free snacks and cold bottled water. Bring your lawn chair and a non-perishable food item for a local food pantry.



LEADERSHIP AND ANXIETY IN THE CHURCH: A FAMILY SYSTEMS PERSPECTIVE: The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center is offering a webinar on Leadership and Anxiety in the Church. There are several dates to choose from and there is a discount if four or more people sign-up from your congregation. The next webinar will be offered on September 29th and again on November 4th.

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

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

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.

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. Items may be dropped off Sunday, 10/10 through Thursday, 10/14. See attached flier for more information. Please let Janet, Linda Z., or Glen Z. know if and when you are available to help.

"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.

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.



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](#)

Message from Our Presbytery Co-Leaders

Dear Presbytery friends,

This morning I finished Jim Marion's book on the death of the Mythic God. In his conclusion, he reminds his readers that there are many types of human development. There's physical, emotional, moral, and faith development. The focus of his book is on the development of the spirit. While all these various types of development have some similarities they also have their own distinct learnings and realizations.

That is why we can't fully develop unless we are paying attention to all aspects of our lives. It is in paying attention to each aspect of our being that we can truly become whole. I would argue the same is true in the church. Right now, there is a great deal of anxiety among church leaders. When will this pandemic end? Will there be a church left when it is over? What will we do if people don't come back? These questions need to be asked, but they are only some of the questions that can be asked.

Perhaps this is a good time for congregations to take a holistic look at their development. Is the congregation developing emotionally and spiritually. Is the congregation physically and financially whole? How is the pastor's emotional and spiritual health? I believe focusing on our whole development and not just our fears is the best way forward (not the only way or the "right" way). I believe this because Jesus said over and over that we have the power to embrace our own divinity, our own power, and our own unique selves. If we do not let fear (and anxiety) overcome us, if we truly seek to accomplish God's will as best as we understand it, then we can continue to grow in all aspects of our life together and grow into our calling for this time and place, and be at peace.

Steve Huston
Co-Presbytery Leader / Resource Presbyter

REGARDING RULING ELDERS: A MONTHLY SERIES FOR SERVING FAITHFULLY

Leaders Hope by Rodger Nishioka – August 16, 2021

Jack has just turned 80 years old, and his health is declining. I'm with him at the hospital at a low moment. He is still as handsome as ever. In his younger years, he was an excellent athlete and then a fine coach and teacher. He has shaped countless lives, but now, as his body is able to do less and less, his spirit is struggling. He is much loved by his wife, daughters, and grandchildren. His mind is sharp. I sit by his bedside as we talk. He is frustrated and angry. He had been visited by yet another physician whose bedside manner, according to Jack, left much to be desired. He describes how the young doctor looked at the chart more than at him and matter-of-factly talked through his current condition. Then, ending her visit, she glanced at him and said something along the lines of "well, we're doing pretty much all we can do" and walked out of his room. "Can you believe it?!" he asks me incredulously. "Rodger," he says emphatically, "remember this. You have to give us some hope. We have to have hope!"

I have kept his words of wisdom in my soul every day since that visit.

There is much to worry about these days, from the Delta variant of the coronavirus to unstable weather in much of the world to broken relationships to a deeply divided nation. It is easy to despair. Yet theologian Jürgen Moltmann reminds us in his important book *Theology of Hope* that the greatest challenge to hope is not despair but acquiescence—when people simply accept things the way they are.

Kristen, one of my former students from Columbia Seminary, was called to serve a church in rural Ohio. Soon after she arrived, she was looking around the building and found the nursery. When she opened the door, she discovered it had become a storage room. When she asked about it, she was

told that it had been years since the congregation had a baby in their midst. Kristen asked if it would be okay if she cleaned out the nursery. Two ruling elders offered to help, and over the next few weeks, the three of them emptied the nursery and repainted it. After visiting a few garage sales, they found a nice rocking chair, changing table, some lamps, and some toys. For a few months, the nursery sat empty. Then, in the spring, a young family visited the church. The parents were delighted with the nursery. The young mother said it looked like they had prepared it just for her daughter, and the elder said, "As a matter of fact, we did. We were waiting for you."

Leaders have a choice. We can accept the status quo, say that's just the way it is and we are doing pretty much all we can, or we can choose not to settle for the way things are. Our people are desperate for hope. That's what leaders do. Leaders hope!

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 **eighth** 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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