“THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

Monthly Newsletter
SEPTEMBER 2026

32 “And now, my children, listen to me: happy are those who keep my ways. 33 Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it. Proverbs 6:32-33

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 – Merle Lyte
2 – Yvette Otero
3 – Christian Nwosu
17 – Carlos Otero
21 – Rev, Ron Thompson
22 – Diane Smith
24 – Kathy Kreie

PASTOR’S MESSAGE:

When we talk about Sunday as a day of rest, we often assume people arrive at church refreshed from a leisurely weekend, ready to worship, reconnect with friends, and prepare spiritually for the week ahead. For many people, that simply isn't true.

Recent discussions about how Americans spend their Sundays highlight a reality that we see every week. Some people enjoy the luxury of an unhurried weekend. Others spend Sunday catching up on chores and family responsibilities. Still others work weekends because that's when the hours are available. By the time they arrive at worship, if they can make it at all, they are carrying exhaustion that has little to do with a lack of faith and everything to do with the demands of life. This should remind us that Sabbath has always been more than a scheduling principle. It is a gift.

When God established the Sabbath, it was revolutionary because it declared that human beings were more than producers. In a world where slaves worked until someone told them to stop, God commanded rest. Not because all the work was finished, but because His people belonged to Him before they belonged to their labor. That truth still matters.

Some members of our congregations have jobs that allow weekends off, predictable schedules, and time to recharge. Others work in hospitals, retail stores, restaurants, public safety, transportation, warehouses, and countless service industries that never close. For them, Sunday may be another workday, or it may be the one brief window to accomplish everything that couldn't get done during the week.

If we are not careful, we can unintentionally build churches around the assumption that everyone has the same amount of free time. When someone declines to volunteer, leaves immediately after worship, or attends irregularly, our first assumption should not be a lack of commitment. It may simply be that they are living without the margin that others enjoy.

The church cannot create more hours in someone's week. But it can become a place where weary people encounter the rest that Jesus promised. That means worship should not become another performance people feel pressured to perfect. It should become an invitation to lay down burdens, if only for an hour.

It means our fellowship should not depend on having an unhurried afternoon. It should communicate genuine welcome even to those who must leave quickly for another shift.

It means our expectations for serving should recognize that faithfulness looks different in different seasons of life. The widow with abundant time and the single parent working two jobs may both be equally devoted disciples, even though their calendars tell very different stories.

The biblical vision of Sabbath was never simply about taking one day off. It was about remembering who God is and who we are. Every Sunday, the church proclaims that our value is not determined by our productivity, our income, or our ability to keep up with everyone else. Before we are employees, employers, retirees, students, or caregivers, we are beloved children of God.

Perhaps that is one of the greatest gifts the church can offer our communities today. Not merely another activity to fit into an overcrowded schedule but a holy interruption. A place where the overworked, the anxious, the successful, the struggling, the retired, the unemployed, the exhausted, and the comfortable all hear the same invitation from Christ, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

In a culture where true rest has become increasingly rare, perhaps the church's calling is not simply to hold worship on Sunday. It is to embody the Sabbath that God has always intended, reminding every person, regardless of their circumstances, that their deepest identity is found not in what they produce, but in the One who has redeemed them.

Steve Huston, Organizing Co-Leader/ Resource Presbyter of the PNENJ

SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS:

DATE	*ELDER-IN-CHARGE	*LAY LEADER	COMMUNION
Sept. 6	Linda Zehner	Feret Fenelus	Linda & Feret
Sept. 13	Janet Sangekar	Khary Wilson	
Sept. 20	Carol Gordon	Kathy Kreie	
Sept. 27	Karen Brelowski	Irene Schoenwalder	
Oct. 4	Lois Tangowski	Karen Brelowski	Lois & Karen
Oct. 11	Kathy Kreie	Bruce Tangowski	
Oct. 18	Feret Fenelus	Vyonnia Thompson	
Oct. 25	Marty Lindner	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 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.

CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION: ***The Blessing Room*** is open to Union County residents **who need**

essential items. Patrons should park in the rear lot and enter through the rear door. We will have clothing and small household items available for distribution at no cost. Patrons should bring proof of residence and bag(s) will be supplied to carry out their items. The Townley Blessing Room is the location where a ministry dedicated to providing essential items to individuals and families in need takes place. Townley acts as the conduit. As God blesses Townley, we bless others.

- Arista Care Nursing Home – In August, 4 bags of clothing were distributed among residents in need from the Blessing Room.
- The Blessing Room has received a total of $784 in donations for the first half of year from Salem Roadhouse.
- There are volunteer opportunities to help with the Blessing Room. If interested, please see Janet or Diane.

The Blessing Room will be open on the **1st Saturday of each month** from **9 am to 11 am**. in the Chapel Basement. Set up and last-minute sorting will start at 8:00 am that morning. Donations and volunteers will continue to be needed. Our next distribution date will be **September 5th.** Setup times for the Blessing Room will be Thursday, September 3 from 9:30 – 11:30 and 6:00 - 8:00 pm. There will also be set up on Friday, September 4 from 9:30 to 11:30 and 6:00 – 8:00 pm Please join us if you are able. Remaining 2026 Blessing Room Dates are: **October 3, November 7 and December 5.**

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

- In August, 4 bags of clothing were distributed among residents in need from the Blessing Room.

SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ: The Salem Roadhouse Café proudly presents Carrie Jackson featuring The Jazzin' All-Stars on Saturday, **September 12, 2026**. The doors open at 7:15 pm, the show starts at 8:00 pm. Admission is $20 and includes show, snacks, non-alcoholic beverages, and dessert. The venue is located in Bailey Hall, at Townley Presbyterian Church, 829 Salem Rd., Union, NJ. The Roadhouse operates as a non-profit that raises funds for several carefully chosen local charities. See attached flier.

RAFAEL'S LIFE HOUSE BABY SHOWER: Townley Church is partnering with Connecticut Farms Church in sponsoring a Baby Shower for expectant mothers at Raphael's Life House in Elizabeth this fall. If you wish to donate an unwrapped new item for the baby shower, please write your name next to that item on the master sign-up sheet posted on the kitchen refrigerator in Bailey Hall. **Attached is the updated list of donations so you can see what items are still needed.** Cash donations are also welcome. Please bring your gifts and or cash donations to Lisa or Janet by **September 13, 2026**. Lisa and Janet will purchase additional gifts with your cash donations, wrap all the gifts, and represent Townley Church at the baby shower on September 30. If you have any questions, please contact them.

SESSION WORKS: "Session Works" is a monthly communication of significant decisions made by Townley Session. From **August's** meeting, the following items were approved / discussed:

- Rummage Sale: Motion made and carried to approve the following 2027 dates:
  April 17-22, 2027, for Setup in Bailey Hall
  April 23 & 24, 2027 for Rummage Sale in Bailey Hall
- 2027 Roadhouse Dates: Motion made and carried to table the approval of the 2027 Roadhouse dates to our September session meeting to allow for more discussion.
- Sweetheart Brunch: Committee should meet and bring dates for the 2027 Sweetheart Brunch to our September session meeting.
- High Tea Luncheon: Recommendation made to hold the High Tea Luncheon in 2027 to allow more time to plan it. Committee should come back to session next year for approval.

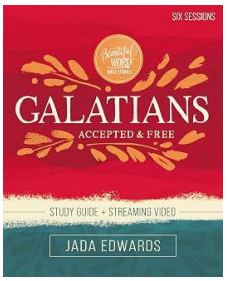
SESSION MEETING: The next Session meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 16, 2026,** at 7:30 pm in **Bailey Hall**. (Session meetings are usually held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.)

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

SCOUTING AMERICA: Scouting offers youth the opportunity to learn more about themselves in a fun and safe environment, giving them the skills they need to succeed at every stage of their lives. The Patriots' Path Council proudly serves more than 11,000 youth members and more than 4,000 volunteer leaders in the New Jersey counties of Middlesex, Morris, Somerset, Sussex, and Union. We invite boys and girls to join Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouts or Exploring. The council is welcoming and accessible to all youth and their families regardless of interests, abilities or economic resources. **Please see the attached flier for the kickoff event information on September 26th.**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: The Nominating Committee will be meeting after worship service on Sunday, **September 27** to select nominees for open Session positions. The committee members are: Ruth Ammerman, Lisa Heims, Kathy Kreie, Merle Lyte, Cynthia Manno, and Carruthers Tumfour. If you or a fellow member is interested in serving the church in a leadership capacity, please notify one of the nominating committee members listed above.

WEDNESDAY NOON BIBLE STUDY – will resume on Wednesday, **September 30** as we begin our Fall Bible Study of "Galatians: Accepted and Free" by Jada Edwards. The book of Galatians is a passionate letter explaining what it really looks like to be a follower of Jesus Christ and how our freedom in him is certain. It's a letter that many of us urgently need to hear. Jada Edwards teaches the importance of knowing that you are wholly and fully accepted in Christ, by Christ, and through Christ. From your birth, God has called and chosen you —and now:



- Because of God's **authority**, we don't need to seek the acceptance of man.
- Because of God's **approval**, we aren't insecure or intimidated.
- Because of God's **freedom**, we don't need to self-sabotage in order to cope.
- Because of God's **restoration**, we can bring healing and restoration to others.

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

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING: We received a thank you from Presbytery Stewardship & Funds Development for our $288 total contribution for One Great Hour of Sharing.

NEW LEGACY BOOKS: Our Book Donation Bin is at the back of our Salem Road parking lot. All book donations must be in good readable condition and have an ISBN barcode on the cover. No Encyclopedias, Magazines or water damaged books can be accepted. Your donation helps raise funds for Church Mission projects and Church repairs. For more information or if you wish to purchase books, please visit: NewLegacyBooks.com.

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.

- We received a thank you from Karen Drzik, Connecticut Farms Mission chairperson for our continued financial donations and support for their food pantry. They greatly appreciate it.

- There are volunteer opportunities to help with this food pantry. If interested, please contact Janet or Diane.

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!

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

ACROSS	DOWN
1. Fall	2. Libra
5. Aster	3. PatriotDay
7. Thirty	4. Football
8. Sapphire	5. Apple
10. Grandparents	6. Virgo
11. Leaves	8. September
14. Ninth	9. Constitution
15. Summer	11. LaborDay
16. Orchard	12. Harvest
17. School	13. Equinox
18. Acorn	

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