

# “THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

*Monthly Newsletter*  
**AUGUST 2023**

“Do not let your hearts be troubled, Believe in God, believe also in Me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.” *John 14:1-3*

## **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

3 Maryann Cove

8 Cecelia Harrison

30 Robert Harrison

## **PASTOR’S MESSAGE:**

### **THE “DOG DAYS” OF SUMMER**

In ancient Greece and Rome, the Dog Days were believed to be a time of drought, bad luck, and unrest, when dogs and men alike would be driven mad by the extreme heat! Today, the phrase doesn’t conjure up such bad imagery. Instead, the Dog Days are associated purely with the time of summer’s peak temperatures and humidity. Although the effects of climate change makes one wonder.

This period of sweltering weather coincides with the year’s heliacal (meaning “at sunrise”) rising of Sirius, the Dog Star. Sirius is part of the constellation Canis Majoris—the “Greater Dog”—which is where Sirius gets its canine nickname, as well as its official name, Alpha Canis Majoris. Not including our own Sun, Sirius is the brightest star in the sky.

In ancient Greece, Egypt, and Rome, it was believed that the dawn rising of Sirius in mid-to-late summer contributed to the extreme weather of the season. In other words, the “combined heat” of super-bright Sirius and our Sun was thought to be the cause of summer’s sweltering temperatures. The name “Sirius” even stems from the Ancient Greek seírios, meaning “scorching.”

Our reality is that excessive heat is dangerous, and we need to take precautions. Please consider the following tips:

- Drink plenty of fluids, even if you don’t feel thirsty, and avoid alcohol and caffeinated beverages.
- Wear loose, lightweight clothing and a hat.
- Keep your body cool by staying in air-conditioned buildings or using fans.
- Keep your house cool by shutting curtains and blinds during the day.
- Take care of others, especially elderly friends, neighbors, or relatives.
- Plan ahead.
- Keep your food safe.

Some consider the Dog Days to be the 40 days beginning July 3 and ending August 11. The kids won’t like it, but see you in September!

# Gospel Brunch

Join us for a Gospel Brunch on **Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>**. The service will be held in Bailey Hall the morning after one of our Summer Roadhouse performances. Let's describe it as: *"Good News, Good Music, and Good Food"*. Service starts at 10:00 AM.

## SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS FOR JULY AND AUGUST:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>*ELDER-IN-CHARGE</u>	<u>*LAY LEADER</u>	<u>COMMUNION</u>
August 6	Janet Sangekar	Irene Schoenwalder	Janet S. & Irene S.
August 13	Irene Schoenwalder	Karen Brelowski	
August 20	Lisa Heims	Santiago Guzman	
August 27	Marty Lindner	Vyonna Thompson	
Sept. 3	Linda Zehner	Bruce Tangowski	Linda Z. Bruce T.
Sept. 10	Carruthers Tumfour	Diane Smith	
Sept. 17	Carol Gordon	Marty Lindner	
Sept. 24	Karen Brelowski	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, 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.

**SESSION MEETING:** The next session meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 23, 2023 (4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday)** at 7:30 pm in the upstairs meeting room. (Session meetings are usually held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.) **There was no session meeting in July.**

**TOWNLEY WEDNESDAY NOONTIME BIBLE STUDY** – Will start up again in September.

## TOWNLEY COMMUNITY GROUP



The "Townley Community Group" is meeting on Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30 PM in the Prayer Room. The group is having a meaningful discussion of a book entitled "Weird Church – Welcome to the Twenty-First Century." Utilizing Spiral Dynamics as a means of framing the current changes in North American culture, Nixon and Estock give a thrilling forecast of where the church is going as we race toward the mid-century. All are welcome to join the discussion and fellowship – snacks included! See Francia, Sandra, Santiago, or Pastor Ron for more info.



**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.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN:**

Townley Church needs help to fund several significant repairs. We appreciate your donations to our "Cherish The Church" Capital Improvement Campaign.



DONATE TO HELP RENOVATE



Help Us Reach Our Goal !



Online



Locally

Donations are tax deductible

**NOTE FROM YOUR TREASURE:**

Our Cherish the Church Fund is at \$14,965. We are not only getting donations from our congregation but also from friends of Townley. Thank you notes were sent out. (Our Cherish the Church Fund Thermometer tracks the donations received toward our goal of \$50,000 to be raised in 18 months. These funds are to be used for our capital improvements. A red mailbox to accept

donations and the thermometer are posted in Bailey Hall. Special envelopes, designed by Kathy Kreie, are next to the mailbox. It is hoped that donations will not only come from our congregation but will be received from the support groups and others that may use our facilities.)

Thank you, Janet, Church Treasurer

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

**SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ:** The next Roadhouse show will be on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, featuring local keyboard performer David Braham with his pure acoustic jazz trio. Dave will be playing our wonderful Steinway Grand Piano upstairs in the Sanctuary. David played at our previous Gospel Brunch with Stephen Fuller.

**CHRISTMAS GALA SHOW:** Mark your calendar for a special musical Christmas Gala Show on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Watch for future announcements. You might be approached about helping out with the show.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY: SAVE THE DATE!** This year's Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, **December 9, 2023**, 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.



**THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY:**

- Special Called Meeting of the Presbytery is scheduled for Thursday, August 3, 2023, at 7:00 pm.
- The next meeting of the Presbytery is scheduled for Saturday, September 16, 2023, at 9:30 am. Website <https://pnenj.org>

## WITTY & WISE – FROM AARP BULLETIN - JULY/AUGUST 2023 ISSUE

Mandy: Does laziness run in your family?

Andy: No one runs in my family.

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1<sup>st</sup> person: Last week, I saw a wolf.

2<sup>nd</sup> person: Where?

1<sup>st</sup> person: No, just a regular wolf

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Boss: How come you only get sick on workdays?

Employee: I guess I have a weekend immune system.

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Bill: I once had a job as a human cannonball.

Will: What happened?

Bill: They fired me.

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Restaurant Worker: Do you want your pizza delivered?

Customer: Yes, please. I hate liver.

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Tommy: When my uncle got to America, he only knew two words of English. Now he's a millionaire.

Timmy: What were the words?

Tommy: "Hands up!"

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

*Lifting One Another up in Prayer, Mutual Concern, and Active Support*  
by Marissa Galvan-Valle – July 14, 2023



The Book of Order reminds us that one of the ways a faithful member gets involved in Christ's mission is by "lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support" (G-1.0304). Upon reflecting on this phrase, "one another" and "mutual" seemed to stick out.

In Spanish, adhering to the General Assembly's statements on using inclusive language becomes difficult because Spanish assigns feminine or masculine genders to almost every word. When translating "one another," "mutuamente" can be used. For example, "let us love one another" becomes "amémonos mutuamente." This way, the language is intentionally inclusive and carries the message and commandment that this is not a task for just one person. This is a task that we undertake for others, and others undertake for us.

"Mutual" comes from the words "mutuel" in French and from the Latin "mūtu(us)." It has a connection with "mutate," to change. It makes sense. What we do in mutuality can change us. When we pray for one another, and feel the support and power of prayer, it can change our mood and our relationship with others. Can you remember a time when you were paired up with someone and you prayed for one another? How did you feel? How did the other person feel? Did it change you in some way?

Then there is the aspect of "active support." Even if this term does not include "mutual," it recognizes that we need each other. Like the support beams of a house, it usually takes more than one. Several beams are necessary in order to hold it up.

As ruling elders and teaching elders we are called, through our ordination vows, to pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination and love (W-4.0404h). We sometimes focus on the last part of the sentence and seem to forget the first. We pray and we seek to serve the people, to create a mutuality that calls the congregation to lift each other in

prayer, to practice mutual concern, and to actively support each other. We pray and we seek to serve the people so that the church can be a place where all can be together and have all things in common, supporting each other as any has need, and breaking bread together with glad and generous hearts (Acts 2: 44–47).

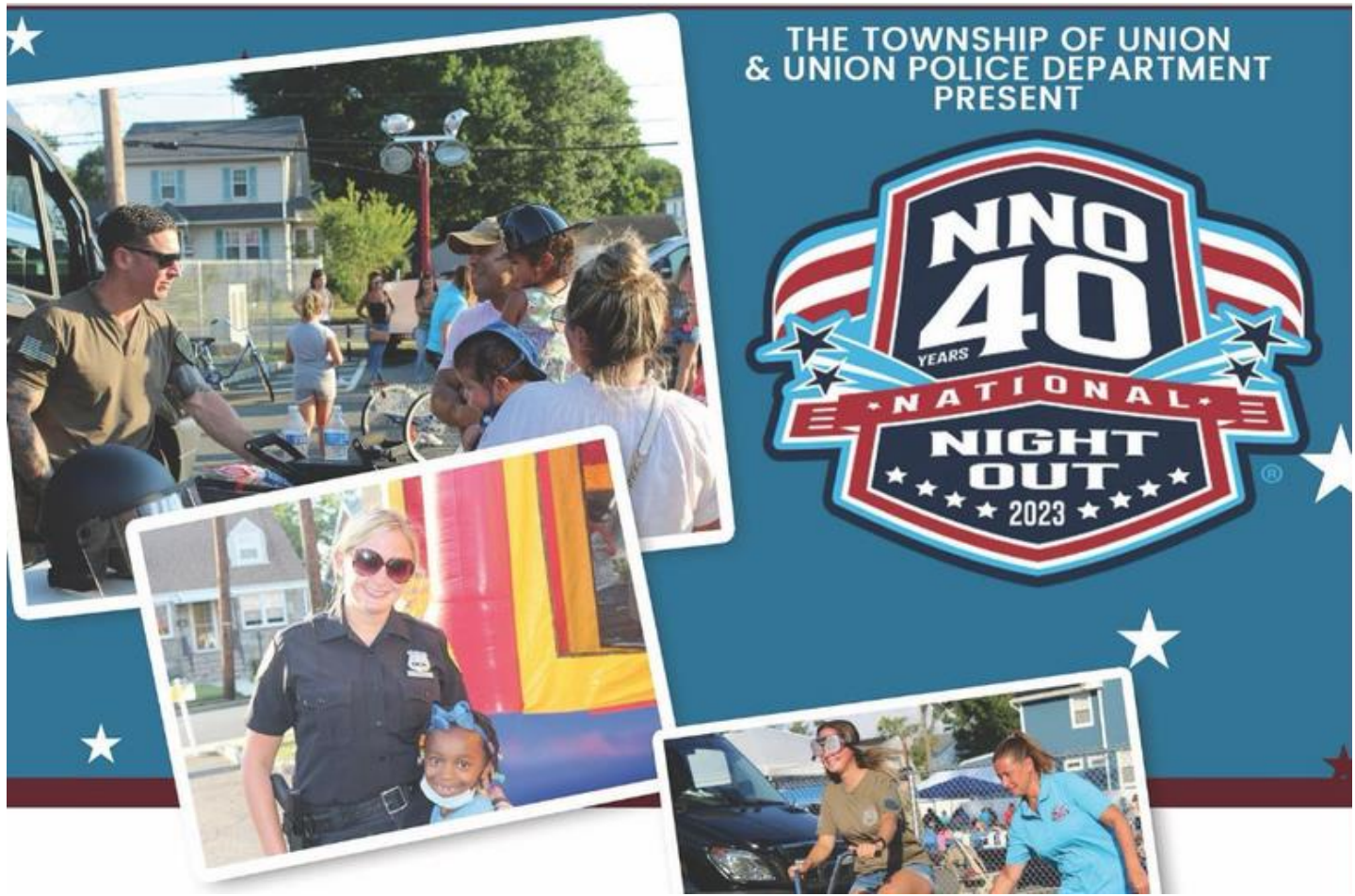
As children, we learn by example. We see and we do. We learn to share by example. We learn patience by example. As adults, we need to learn by example as well. We learn to share with each other. We learn patience with each other. That happens when we live in mutuality and reciprocity, when we strive to love each other, through prayer, concern, and support. Amor mutuo!

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Marissa Galván-Valle is a minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). She is the senior editor for Spanish Language Resources in the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation and temporary pastor at Beechmont Presbyterian Church, an intercultural church that worships each Sunday in Spanish and English. She was ordained as a ruling elder when she was 21 years old.

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The township and the Union Police Department are gearing up for its annual National Night Out Against Crime event at police headquarters set for August 1.

The event, at Police Headquarters, 981 Caldwell Avenue, will include games, dunk-a-cop tank, a bouncy house, DUI goggle demonstration, treats, tours of police department headquarters, and family activities. National Night Out is scheduled from 5 to 9 p.m. Parking is available in the Burnet Middle School lot.

National Night Out Against Crime is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police/community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, better places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community and provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances. Neighborhoods across the nation host block parties, festivals, parades, cookouts and other community events with safety demonstrations, seminars, youth events, visits from emergency personnel and exhibits.



Union’s annual “Girls Night Out” is set for Friday, August 11 in Union Center.

The event includes live entertainment, a DJ, wellness sessions, food tastings, glitter bar, photobooth, and a beer garden. The event, from 6 to 10 p.m., will take place in Russo Park and around Union Center.

Swag bags and certain items are on a first-come-first-served basis. According to the Township, more information will be coming soon.

**LOGIC GRID ANSWERS**

The Benson Family of 4 arrived at 8:00 with a blue umbrella.  
The Kendall Family of 5 arrived at 7:00 with a green umbrella.  
The Ridley Family of 6 arrived at 10:00 with a yellow umbrella.  
The Thorpe Family of 3 arrived at 9:00 with a white umbrella.