

# “THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

*Monthly Newsletter*  
**FEBRUARY 2024**

*If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love,  
I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal... 1 Corinthians 13*

## **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

7 Marie Lindner  
18 Lisa Heims

## **PASTOR'S MESSAGE:**

### **WINTER BIBLE STUDY BEGINS**

After a nice holiday break, our Bible Study returns on Wednesday, **February 5<sup>th</sup> at noon** – for you retired folks and on **Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM** – for the working folks. We are planning a five-session (5-weeks) study of the book: “*When Your Way Isn't Working*”, by Kyle Idleman. Many of you remember Kyle for leading us through a study on John's Gospel.

The purpose of this study is to find purpose and contentment through a deeper connection with Jesus. It all comes down to one word: **connection**. Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches. As long as we, the branches, stay connected to him, the vine, we will bear much fruit. But apart from Jesus, nothing will really work the way it should.

If you have found that your way just isn't working, it's time to check your connection to the vine. If you are discouraged, frustrated, anxious, and worn out, it's time to stop trying to be the vine and instead be the branch. When you begin to humbly depend on the vine, you will begin to bear much fruit—and you will bring God glory. See Pastor Ron for your study guide.



### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Just about four years ago, when the Covid-19 pandemic began, I started a Monday through Friday morning call to our members. Its purpose was to keep us connected during those trying and fearful times. Did you know that those morning calls (at 10am) have continued to this day? I missed one week due to having a bout with laryngitis. Some folks thought it was my Rod Steward imitation. But did you know that you can join the call list? Text me at 908 477-4706 and I will add you to the call – most calls last less than a minute. Just enough time to get you thinking.



**PER CAPITA:** As you know, every December the Board of Trustees of the Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey presents the Presbytery's budget for the coming year. The budget includes Per Capita received from its congregations. This money is used to develop programs, such as training for congregations and their leaders and supporting the work of Commission on Ministry. The complete budget can be viewed on the Presbytery website. ***The 2024 Per Capita for Townley is \$38.00 per member.*** Please submit your check for this amount payable to Townley Presbyterian Church. We look forward to your participation in per capita giving, an expression of your commitment to ministry both within our congregation and beyond. Thank you. Janet, Church Treasurer

**SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS:**

<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>*ELDER-IN-CHARGE</u></b>	<b><u>*LAY LEADER</u></b>	<b><u>COMMUNION</u></b>
Feb. 4	Kathy Kreie	Bruce Tangowski	Kathy & Bruce
Feb. 11	Lois Tangowski	Cynthia Manno	
Feb. 18	Lisa Heims	Santiago Guzman	
Feb. 25	Marty Lindner	Vyonnia Thompson	
Mar. 3	Linda Zehner	Cynthia Manno	Linda & Cynthia
Mar. 10	Irene Schoenwalder	Lynn Bailey	
Mar. 17	Janet Sangekar	Lisa Heims	
Mar. 24	Karen Brelowski	Kathy Kreie	
Mar. 31	Carol Gordon	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.  
 Feb. 4 - Brunch  
 Feb. 18 – Karen Brelowski



**NURSING HOME VISITATION:** Our nursing home ministry has been resumed 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.

**SESSION MEETING:** The next session meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 21, 2024**, at 7:30 pm in the upstairs meeting room. (Session meetings are usually held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.)

**THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY:** The next meeting of the Presbytery is scheduled for Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 6:30 pm. Website <https://pnenj.org>



**PROGRAM / MISSION:**

**SWEETHEART BRUNCH** – will be held on Sunday, February 4, 2024, in Bailey Hall after worship service. We have 20 basket donations. Cost is \$10 per person which includes lunch, coffee/tea and dessert.

**SPRING RUMMAGE SALE** – April 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> 2024 has been selected for our spring Rummage Sale. Save the date!



**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

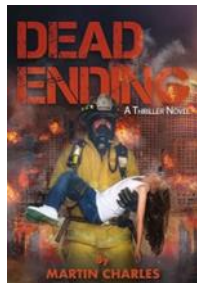


Locally

Donations are tax deductible

**NOTE FROM YOUR TREASURER:** Our Cherish the Church Fund amount is \$25,760 as of 1/22/24. We are not only getting donations from our congregation but also from friends of Townley. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 in 18 months (June 2024). These funds are to be used for our capital improvements. A red mailbox to accept donations and a thermometer to track progress are in Bailey Hall. Donation envelopes are next to the mailbox. Thank you to all who have donated so far to help us reach our goal!

**BOOK DISCUSSION**



**Dead Ending** is unique as there is not a book that has incorporated the daily dangers a firefighter must endure with multiple threats from the MS-13 and Al Qaeda, WMD, assassins, and arsonists. This fast-paced thriller, crisply written, will appeal to everyone as the entire McNamara family strives to survive tragedy, then one enemy after another. **Join us on Sunday, March 17**, during Fellowship Hour for a Q&A with its author Martin Charles (AKA Marty).



**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!

## SESSION WORKS



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

- Active Membership Roster updated and approved
- Annual Statistical Report approved
- 2024 Communion date approved
- Scams and Security discussed
- Established Membership Committee- consisting of Karen Brelowski from Session and two members.

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

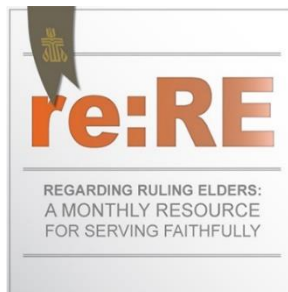
**Don't  
Get  
Scammed**

**DO NOT GIVE MONEY (CASH, CHECKS, OR GIFT CARDS) OR PERSONAL INFORMATION TO ANYONE WHOSE IDENTITY CANNOT BE VERIFIED!**

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

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

***Demonstrating a New Quality of Life Within and Through the Church  
by Marissa Galvan-Valle – January 16, 2024***



It seems quite natural to think about a new quality of life at the beginning of a new year. As we continue to examine the ways that faithful members are “involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ’s Church” (G-1.0304), it’s appropriate to examine what it means to demonstrate a new quality of life at the same time that we are faced with a turn of the calendar. Does it fit into the most common new year resolutions like losing weight, exercising more, getting more organized, traveling, or reading more? Is that the new quality of life that we are looking for?

In a sermon called “[‘Disciple’ is a Verb](#)”, the Rev. Patrick Willson says that “membership is something we do, and not simply something we are.” He says that whenever the Bible speaks about members, it does so to describe a function, as when Paul describes the members of the body in Romans. All these members have a particular gift to do something and are called to teach, to exhort, to give, to lead, to cheer, to comfort, or to act in a way that reflects their God-given talent. We are members to do something as part of the body of Christ.

Thinking about this, our focus could be on the word “demonstrate.” How do we demonstrate the quality of life that God wants from us? The Confession of 1967 gives

us a clue: “The church disperses to serve God wherever its members are, at work or play, in private or in the life of society. Their prayer and Bible study are part of the church’s worship and theological reflection. Their witness is the church’s evangelism. Their daily action in the world is the church in mission to the world. The quality of their relationship with other persons is the measure of the church’s fidelity.” (9.37)

Worship and reflection, witness and evangelism, action and mission, relationship, and fidelity. All these action words demonstrate who we are as followers of Jesus Christ and members of the church. A healthy church includes members who are intentional in demonstrating what the impact of redemption and grace has done in their lives. Ruling elders, then, are to be a part of this great and intentional demonstration, while also called to provide opportunities for members, old and new, to witness and to act in ways that show what their faith has done to transform their lives. Maybe that’s the resolution for a new year.

Lamentations 3:22-23 reminds us of the new impact of God’s love each day: “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” New impact, new transformation, new reminder, new quality of life each day.

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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 in Louisville, 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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**Website: [TownleyChurch.org](http://TownleyChurch.org) / Facebook: Like us on “Townley Church”**



New Jersey residents 60 and older can expand their horizons in health, wellness, technology, travel, and a host of other subjects by taking free classes online with [GetSetUp](https://www.getsetup.io/).

The New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services, offers access to GetSetUp, a platform hosting live online classes taught by peers who are experts in their fields, at no cost to older adults in New Jersey through a federally funded partnership. New Jerseyans 60 and older can register and take classes via a computer, tablet, or smartphone through the website, <https://www.getsetup.io/partner/NJ>.

This partnership enables the Division on Aging Services to provide free seats in a wide-range of classes. Among the offerings are classes that promote health and wellness for older adults, teach user-friendly ways to experience new technologies, and expand interests in the arts, travel, and cooking.





**JAN 31–FEB 25, 2024**, *After Midnight*, transports you to the Cotton Club of the Harlem Renaissance, intertwining exhilarating dance from tap to Lindy Hop with songs from big-band legends Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway, Harold Arlen, Dorothy Fields, and more. The electrifying score features such hits as “I Can’t Give You Anything but Love,” “Stormy Weather,” “On the Sunny Side of the Street,” and “It Don’t Mean a Thing.”

***Do Everything in Love***  
***Author unknown***

In everything you do,  
Do it in love  
For the Father is watching  
In Heaven above.



At work or at play  
Offer words of kindness to others  
To the cashier, the barber  
The bus driver and new mothers.

Jesus is the example  
That we all should follow  
Love is the ultimate gift  
To give those in good times and sorrow.