

# “THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

Monthly Newsletter  
OCTOBER 2023

*“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest; you shall leave them for the poor and for the alien: I am the LORD your God.” Leviticus 23:22*

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

15 Ruth Ammerman

19 William Jensen

26 Suzanne Deller

## PASTOR’S MESSAGE:

### **Stewardship: Do or Die?**

Jesus, in Matthew 25:14-30, tells The Parable of the Talents. This is where he likens the Kingdom of Heaven to a man entrusting his property to three servants before going to another country. The first servant is given five bags of gold, the second servant is given two bags of gold and the third servant is given one bag of gold. The first servant doubles his money, the second servant also doubles his money, and the third servant buries his one bag of gold.

Upon his return, the man meets with his three servants. The first servant is rewarded for his faithfulness, the second servant is also rewarded for his faithfulness, but the third servant is severely rebuked for his unfaithfulness. The third servant proved to be a worthless servant. As a result, he lost what he had and was cast into “the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth”. Weeping and gnashing of teeth refers to judgment on sinners before Jesus’ earthly kingdom is established.

Perhaps you’ll think that I am going to extremes in questioning whether Stewardship is a Do or Die requirement. A steward is an ancient job title describing a person who takes care of or manages something for someone else. Anytime you are responsible for something that belongs to someone else, that’s stewardship. Biblical stewardship challenges us to recognize that God is the owner of everything. Because of this, God expects us to manage God’s resources in a certain way. Stewardship is about using what God has given us to accomplish something that matters. Let us continue to utilize the blessings we receive from God’s hand in meaningful ways. More modern jargon says: “Use it, or lose it”.



**SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER:**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>*ELDER-IN-CHARGE</u>	<u>*LAY LEADER</u>	<u>COMMUNION</u>
Oct. 1	Janet Sangekar	Lisa Heims	Janet S. & Lisa H.
Oct. 8	Irene Schoenwalder	Lynn Bailey	
Oct. 15	Lisa Heims	Cynthia Manno	
Oct. 22	Marty Lindner	Kathy Kreie	
Oct. 29	Linda Zehner	Irene Schoenwalder	
Nov. 5	T.B.A.	Karen Brelowski	T.B.A. & Karen B.
Nov. 12	Carol Gordon	Santiago Guzman	
Nov. 19	Karen Brelowski	Vyonna Thompson	
Nov. 26	Janet Sangekar	Bruce Tangowski	



**\* 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.

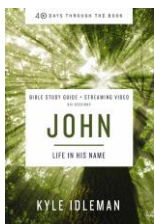
Oct. 1 Lisa Heims	Nov. 5 Elaine J. Brooks
Oct. 8 Karen Brelowski	Nov. 12 Pastor Ron
Oct. 15 Bill Jensen	Nov. 19
Oct. 22 Francia Landrau	Nov. 26
Oct. 29 Pastor Ron	

**SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ:** Salem Roadhouse Café presents Zuko, Philips, Cohn & Starr with an opening performance by Melinda David on **Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>**, at 8:00 pm. Doors open at 7:15 pm. See attached flier.

**NURSING HOME VISITATION:** Our nursing home ministry has been resumed at AristaCare, located at 400 W. Stimpson Avenue in Linden on the **second Sunday** at 2:00pm of each month. Please see Pastor Ron if interested in being part of this ministry.

**SESSION MEETING:** The next session meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 18, 2023**, at 7:30 pm in the upstairs meeting room. (Session meetings are usually held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.)

**TOWNLEY WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY**



For our Fall study, we are turning to the Gospel of John. *John: Life in His Name* (40 Days Through the Book) is our text. Please see Pastor Ron for your book.

**Note:** We are combining our Wednesday and Thursday groups into one for this study. We are meeting in Bailey Hall on **Monday evenings at 6:30pm.**



**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 amount is \$15,727. 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. 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. Special envelopes, designed by Kathy Kreie,

are next to the mailbox. Thank you to all who have donated so far to help us reach our goal! Repairs to our chapel have begun, and the parking lot resurfacing are both near completion.

We received \$75 for Connecticut Farms’ Food Bank. A check was sent out, and they sent us a thank you.

Thank you, Janet, Church Treasurer

**RALLY DAY:** Rally Day will be held on **Sunday, November 12** after service. Task Force members will be setting up tables in Bailey Hall for congregation to come and ask questions about what each task force does and how church members can help.

**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).



**THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY:** The next meeting of the Presbytery is scheduled for Tuesday, November 21, 2023, at 6:30 pm. Website <https://pnenj.org>

**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:

- Reports from Task Forces
- Planning for November Rally Day
- Karen Brelowski and Pastor Ron reported on Presbytery Meeting
- Worshipful Work was on *“When a horse dies, it’s an excellent time to dismount!”*

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

**CHRISTMAS GALA SHOW:** A special Christmas Musical Extravaganza “Sounds of the Season”, a free concert open to the community will be held on **Saturday, December 2, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary**. The concert will feature many performers from Townley and by professional musical performers we all know and love. The sanctuary will be decorated, and the “stage” will have special lighting and some amazing effects. Members of Townley will be asked to help and participate where needed.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY: SAVE THE DATE!** This year’s Christmas Party will be held on **Saturday, December 9, 2023**, at 5:00 PM. Cost is \$40 per person. Lisa Heims and Kathy Kreie are currently taking reservations. Due to popular demand, it will again be held at La Casa Di Martino. 301 West Clay Avenue, Roselle Park, NJ 07204.



**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!



**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).

**HEY CHRISTIANS HAVE A SENSE OF HUMOR, TOO! BY PATRICIA MITCHELL  
ADAM & EVE**

*With great reverence, a little boy opened the family Bible that always sat on the living room table. As he was carefully turning the pages, a big leaf slipped out and fell to the floor. He picked it up and studied it. “Mom!” he shouted, “I think I just found Adam’s clothes!”*

*The previous Sunday, little Billy heard about how God created man out of the dust of the ground, and how he created Eve from one of Adam’s ribs. Later in the week, while playing outside, he developed a pain in his side. He turned to his friend with a serious look on his face and said, “My ribs hurt. I think I’m going to have a wife.”*

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

***Studying Scripture and the Issues of Christian Faith and Life  
by Marissa Galván-Valle – September 15, 2023***



Baptism is a life-defining event that emphasizes a commitment from God to God’s family and from us to God’s creation. It is not a checkbox occurrence, but a lifetime process that is complete only in death. Therefore, it is important for the leadership of the church to keep the commitment of baptism always present as it gets involved in Christ’s mission by “studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life.”

Most baptismal services in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) include liturgies that echo the Book of Common Worship and ask the congregation two questions:

“Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture this person by word and deed, with love and prayer? Will you encourage her/him/them to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of his church?”

The answer from the gathered congregation is “We will.” This response invites us into a long-term commitment to assisting the Spirit in faith formation, to engaging in Bible study, to connecting the spiritual life to the ordinary in hopes of a faithful response to all that it brings, and to being in relationship with church families as they fulfill their baptismal vows at home.

On a recent Sunday morning in the small church that I pastor, the time with the children included a book that took 10 minutes to read. I was nervous. I was concerned that people would get restless because of the extended time focusing on the children. But it occurred to me that this is precious time to make space for the children to connect to God in a way that might not be available to them because the liturgy tends to be designed for adult ears. We are a small church with a wide range of ages in worship and in the church community, and *all* are a part of our baptismal commitments.

As ruling elders of the church, one of our main responsibilities is to work with pastors and other leaders to provide opportunities for discernment, study, asking questions, and wrestling with our faith in ways that make it stronger, fruitful, prophetic, and impactful. There are no words or witness if we don't provide opportunities for the Word to take hold and to grow. Being intentional in providing opportunities beyond a Wednesday night Bible study is imperative and essential for our baptismal life as the Church of Christ. We follow a teacher who was creative and intentional: he used meals, conversations, and objects to strengthen the Word he was preaching, knowing that people learn and grow in different ways. Jesus was the master of show-and-tell! And we, as ruling elders and teaching elders, should follow his example.

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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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