

# “THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

*Monthly Newsletter*  
**SEPTEMBER 2023**

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.” Proverbs 3:5*

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Merle Lyte

22 Diane Smith

24 Kathy Kreie

## PASTOR’S MESSAGE:

### ***See You in September***

Yes, it is September, already! Where did the summer go? It does remind me of the song See You in September, made famous in 1966 by the group The Happenings. Am I dating myself again? The song questions the impact of a summer’s vacation on a relationship. In short, will you still be in that relationship when the summer is over. Strange how a good thing, vacation, can affect a relationship.

September is a time in which relationships are renewed. Especially for those returning to school or to the workplace (if your job allows extended vacation time). September in church circles can have similar significance. After all, we did manage to get some time away. Now that we are back together, I look forward to continuing our church year. Advent and Christmastide will be here before you know it.

Over the summer, the focus of my sermons were on family relationships – in that families matter to God. With September being here, I want to deal with the challenges of relating to people we don’t want to be with, especially someone who has hurt or betrayed us. Those who we consider to be our enemies. In reflecting on the unconditional love of Jesus Christ, how might we practice the kind of love for our enemies that Jesus preached?

September also marks the resumption of our weekly Bible Study. For our Fall study, we will be turning to the Gospel of John. Life in His Name (40 Days Through the Book) is our text. Please see me for your book. Note: We will be combining our Wednesday and Thursday groups into one for this study. We are meeting in Bailey Hall on Monday evenings at 6:30pm. Our kickoff will be on September 25, 2023.



# 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 a Summer Roadhouse performance. Let's describe it as: *"Good News, Good Music, and Good Food"*. Service starts at 10:00 AM.

## SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>*ELDER-IN-CHARGE</u>	<u>*LAY LEADER</u>	<u>COMMUNION</u>
Sept. 3	Linda Zehner	Bruce Tangowski	Linda Z. & Bruce T.
Sept. 10	Carruthers Tumfour	Diane Smith	
Sept. 17	Carol Gordon	Lisa Heims	
Sept. 24	Karen Brelowski	Carruthers Tumfour	
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	



**\* 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.

Sept. 3	Oct. 1 Lisa Heims
Sept. 10 Gospel Brunch	Oct. 8 Karen Brelowski
Sept. 17 Vyonna Thompson	Oct. 15
Sept. 24 Diane Smith (Luncheon)	Oct. 22
	Oct. 29

**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.

**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.

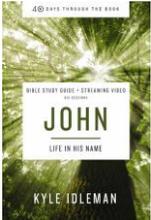
**SESSION MEETING:** The next session meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 20, 2023** at 7:30 pm in the upstairs meeting room. (Session meetings are usually held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.)

**ROOMMATE NEEDED:** A member of the congregation, living in Union, is looking for a roommate. If you or someone you know is interested, please see Pastor Ron or Janet Sangekar.

**THE DAILY EXTRA - GROANERS: WORLD'S BEST BAD JOKES AND PUNS**  
**- SUBMITTED BY LYNN BAILEY**

*A hungry lion roamed through the jungle looking for his next meal when he came upon two men. One man was sitting under a tree reading a book; the other man was writing in a notebook. The lion quickly pounced on the man reading the book and devoured him. Even the king of the jungle knows that readers digest and writers cramp.*

**TOWNLEY WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY**



For our Fall study, we will be turning to the Gospel of John. *John: Life in His Name (40 Days Through the Book)* is our text. Please see me for your book. **Note:** We will be combining our Wednesday and Thursday groups into one for this study. We are meeting in Bailey Hall on **Monday evenings at 6:30pm**. Our kickoff will be on **September 25, 2023**.



**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 corrected amount is \$13,642. 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.

Thank you, Janet, Church Treasurer

**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](mailto:CeceliaH@comcast.net).



**THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY:** The next meeting of the Presbytery is scheduled for Saturday, September 16, 2023 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Website <https://pnenj.org>

## **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:

- Reports from Task Forces
- Planning for September Gospel Brunch
- Karen Brelowski was elected as Commissioner to the Presbytery (commissioners represent local churches)
- Nominating Committee duties discussed
- Each Task Force to begin planning for 2024

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

**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.



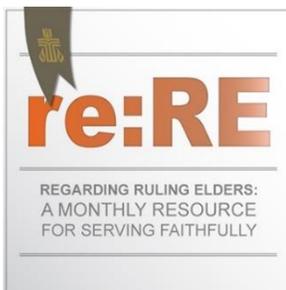
**WE HAVE A FACEBOOK PAGE!** “Like” our Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/TownleyChurch>) to get the latest updates on your wall. Share your Townley comments, photos and videos. If you want pictures added or notices posted, please send an email to the church office ([townleychurch@yahoo.com](mailto:townleychurch@yahoo.com)). 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).

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

*Use Me, God by Valerie Izumi – August 15, 2023*



As Presbyterians we understand that the ministry of prayer is an essential aspect of our baptismal calling. In a recent edition of [Regarding Ruling Elders](#), we were reminded that ruling elders — who are charged with the nurture of the congregation — can and should lead the prayers of intercession and supplication (*Book of Order*, W-3.0308).

Laurene Chan, a ruling elder at the [Presbyterian Church in Chinatown](#), in San Francisco, believes that being prayerful while preparing a liturgy and practicing its delivery builds confidence and trust in it. She finds that centering herself and praying, “OK, God; use me,” helps her trust that God will use her to do amazing things.

Incorporating prayer into every aspect of her life, Chan approaches her ministry as a ruling elder thoughtfully and with care, serving as a leader and liturgist at her church. The

Presbyterian Church in Chinatown holds services in Mandarin, English, and Cantonese every Sunday with little time between, making it a challenge to find enough time for prayer without delaying the worshipers gathering for the next service. Chan believes it is important to find more time for prayer. As she puts it, “When the Spirit moves you can’t say, ‘Oh wait, we have a time limit here.’ We can’t ask members not to share their prayer concerns because we may go over!”

Although Chan does not work in a church setting, prayer is still an important part of her personal and professional life. She works with young people and groups who are not all church-goers, and she often introduces them to a sense of covenantal community through club programs. They share joys and concerns at the end of these gatherings, in response to bidding questions:

- What’s going on with you; what’s up?
- Who are you worried about; are you worried about yourself?
- What are you happy about; what do you want to celebrate?
- What do you want to share?

In this gathered community, which provides necessary space, these young people sense that they are among both people their age and adult allies who care about and want the best for them. They feel safe enough to share some of the deepest things they are thinking about.

Chan said, “Modeling all that comes to the surface through gathered community and prayer is a powerful way to address the challenges that come our way. As we become aware of what’s happening around us, we rely on the movement of the Spirit to soften hearts and open minds to new possibilities. With the support of our community, we can create change and transformation in our lives. When we come together in prayer and fellowship, the Spirit moves in powerful ways, guiding us toward greater understanding and deeper connection.”

Chan’s advice for those who are building their praying capacity is to start with addressing God, getting God’s attention, and easing into it. Just bring yourself to God. No need to fake it or pretend. Sit and listen for a bit. Even a prepared public prayer is a conversation with God and can give comfort, provide strength, and inspire the people. Ask. Listen.

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*valerie izumi is a ruling elder serving the Office of the General Assembly as an assistant stated clerk, coordinating the General Assembly nominations process.*

**Townley Presbyterian Church, 829 Salem Road, Union, NJ 07083**  
**Office:(908) 686-1028 / Email: [TownleyChurch@yahoo.com](mailto:TownleyChurch@yahoo.com)**  
**Website: [TownleyChurch.org](http://TownleyChurch.org) / Facebook: Like us on “Townley Church”**