

“THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

Monthly Newsletter
NOVEMBER 2023

*“Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!”
Psalm 95:2*

PASTOR’S MESSAGE:

What is Rally Day?

In many Protestant churches, Rally Day marks the beginning of the church calendar year. It typically occurs in September or early October. The customs associated with it vary quite a bit from parades and picnics to special church meetings where goals for the coming year are presented.

I do not know when and if Townley has ever had a Rally Day. It will be the first time for me. Understanding that our late scheduling of the event, **November 12**, is atypical, I do believe that we can still set aside a date in which we can “rally” around our church’s Task Forces as they begin their planning for 2024.

Task Forces? Yes, Task Forces. Task Forces are the way in which our Session accomplishes its work. There are three Task Forces: **Support, Program and Vocation.**

- The **Support Task Force** handles things like: Finances & Budget, Buildings & Grounds, Rentals (leases) and Personnel.
- The **Program Task Force** tackles Evangelism, Mission/Outreach, Stewardship, Congregational Care, Fellowship, Roadhouse, and Media Outreach (Webpage, Newsletter, Facebook, Advertising).
- The **Vocation Task Force** covers Christian Ed. (Sunday School, Bible Study, Confirmation Classes, Youth Activities, Monday Prayer Group, etc.), Leadership Development, Worship, and Music.

As you might sense, the responsibilities of Townley’s Task Forces are quite extensive and important. Elders of our Session are assigned to each Task Force to not only provide oversight, but are actively engaged in its respective workings. Here’s where you come in. You need not be an elder to be involved in the work of our various task forces. In fact, you are invited and encouraged to participate in that work.

Let us use Rally Day as an opportunity to get to know the work and people associated with our Task Forces. Immediately after our morning worship service on the 12th, tables have been arranged in Bailey Hall so that you can meet and greet those involved in this work. My hope and prayer is that with a better understanding of our Task Forces, you might avail yourself to this important work.



Daylight Savings Time – concludes at 2 am on Sunday, November 5, 2023, when the clock will fall back one hour.

SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>*ELDER-IN-CHARGE</u>	<u>*LAY LEADER</u>	<u>COMMUNION</u>
Nov. 5	Irene Schoenwalder	Karen Brelowski	Irene S. Karen B.
Nov. 12	Carol Gordon	Santiago Guzman	
Nov. 19	Karen Brelowski	Vyonnia Thompson	
Nov. 26	Janet Sangekar	Bruce Tangowski	
Dec. 3	Irene Schoenwalder	Diane Smith	Irene S. & Diane S.
Dec. 10	Lisa Heims	Marty Lindner	
Dec. 17	Marty Lindner	Cynthia Manno	
Dec. 24	Linda Zehner	Cynthia Manno	
Dec. 31	Janet Sangekar	Lynn Bailey	



*** 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.



Nov. 5 - Elaine J. Brooks	Dec. 3
Nov. 12 - Pastor Ron	Dec. 10
Nov. 19 - Lynn Bailey	Dec. 17
Nov. 26	Dec. 24
	Dec. 31

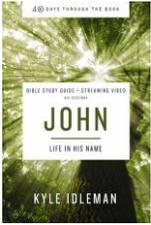
SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ: Salem Roadhouse Café presents The Robert Hill Band performance on **Saturday, November 11th**, at 8:00 pm. Doors open at 7:15 pm. Robert has been inducted into the NY Blues Hall of Fame in 2014. The band adds their own unique interpretations to traditional blues classics, as well as performing many of their own compositions. Original watercolor artwork by Bruce Tangowski will be on display. See attached flier.

At the October 14th show, everyone was given a ticket to win a Fall Basket. A \$132 love offering was made to our Cherish the Church fundraiser!

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, November 15, 2023**, at 7:30 pm in the upstairs meeting room. (Session meetings are usually held the 3rd Wednesday of each month.)

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS DECORATING: We plan to decorate the church for Advent on November 26, 2023, after service. Please consider joining us!



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. **Note:** We return to meeting in Bailey Hall on **Monday, November 6, 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 TREASURER:

Our Cherish the Church Fund amount is \$17,855. 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. 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 are completed, the parking lot just needs stripes, and the cell phone tower work is done – working on sidewalk and pavement repairs caused by heavy equipment. Thank you, Janet, Church Treasurer

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: If you have any items you would like to have included in December’s (monthly) newsletter, please e-mail them to 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 October’s meeting, the following items were approved/discussed:

- Pastor and Task Forces Reports approved
- Worshipful Work: Responsibilities of Elders and Deacon
- Cherish the Church update and continuance through June 2024
- Townley’s mission as Christ’s Church regardless of finances
- Advertisement in local newspapers
- Potential car wash in the Spring



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. The Gateway YMCA Children’s Summer Day Camp Program will be the charity receiving donations. **Members of Townley are being 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. Only 50 reservations may be taken. Due to popular demand, it will again be held at La Casa Di Martino. 301 West Clay Avenue, Roselle Park, NJ 07204.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES: On Sunday, December 24, 2023 we will have our regular 10:00 am church service. Our Christmas Eve service is at 8pm. There is no Christmas Day Service.

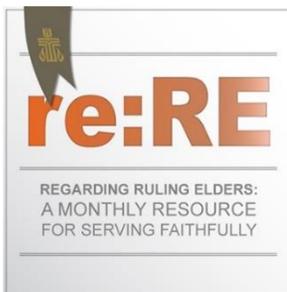
WE HAVE A FACEBOOK PAGE! “Like” our Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/TownleyChurch>) to get the latest updates on your wall. Share your Townley comments, photos and videos. If you want pictures added or notices posted, please send an email to the church office (townleychurch@yahoo.com). Away or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



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.

REGARDING RULING ELDERS: A MONTHLY SERIES FOR SERVING FAITHFULLY

*Making a Meaningful Difference in the World
by Valerie izumi – October 16, 2023*



In the Directory for Worship of the *Book of Order*, the charge, as a part of the act of sending, is described in this way: “We are blessed to be a blessing to others. The charge calls the church to go forth as agents of God’s mission in the world” and because “ruling elders have oversight of the church’s faithfulness to God’s mission, it is fitting for a deacon or ruling elder to speak the charge.” (W-3.0502)

The report of the Special Committee on Racism Truth and Reconciliation approved by the 225th General Assembly (2022) ends with this charge from Isaiah 58:6:

Listen now, God’s people!
Let us repent for those we have harmed.
Let us repair spirits we have crushed.
Let us restore those we have broken.
This is the fast that God has chosen for us.
(The Inclusive Bible)

As we listen to this charge and God’s call, how might we become agents of transformation of creation and humanity?

As a 10-year-old girl from Leland, Mississippi, Ruling Elder Willye Bryan fled the South with her family and became one of almost six million people who, during the six-decade-long Great Migration — the Black Migration — fled the South for cities in the North, East, and West to escape the segregation and oppression of Jim Crow laws.

A sixth-grader, she was placed back into the fifth grade because of unjust and discriminatory beliefs. Fortunately, because the future Dr. Bryan excelled with the fifth-grade material (she says, “been there, done that!”) she was restored to her rightful place in the sixth grade. It was there that a book on the life cycle of the mayfly piqued her interest and set her along a road that led her to become an educator, a researcher, an entomologist, and even a pioneer — as few Black people, and in particular Black women, had been drawn to that field. Her work on biological control of insect pests had a positive impact on protecting the environment and the lives of communities of color

In 2020, as the coronavirus pandemic was in full force, Bryan, who had been actively involved in racial and social justice work in the church, found herself reflecting on how Black communities were disproportionately impacted. She was not alone in realizing that the health impact on Black Americans was “amplifying or even worsening existing social inequalities tied to race, class, and access to the health care system.” This reality, as well as the murder of George Floyd, raised questions and concerns from the white members of her church community. In response, Bryan held adult education for the majority white congregation about the history of Black people and the full spectrum of who Black Americans are in America. It was a social justice awakening.

Subsequently, Bryan founded the [Justice League of Greater Lansing](#) in Michigan to tell the story of the history of Black people in America and the history of racial inequities and disparities that continue to impact Black communities and perpetuate generational wealth gaps. The Justice League hopes to collect \$1 million to support the development and advancement of Black businesses, housing, and more for the restoration to the fullness and equality of creation and humanity God intends.

As Bryan tells the story of our history, ears open and hearts begin to be transformed.

For ruling elders who speak the charge, we give thanks to God.

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

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