



# Stirling Stuff

Volume 61, No. 4

April 2017

## Pastor's Letter



In a sermon entitled, *The Silence of God*, the Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor writes:

*The big disillusionment for the chosen people was that God was not where they thought. They thought God was supposed to be with them when they prayed and fasted and studied the scriptures. They thought nothing pleased God more than to find them on their knees, dressed in sackcloth and covered in ashes – but they were wrong.*

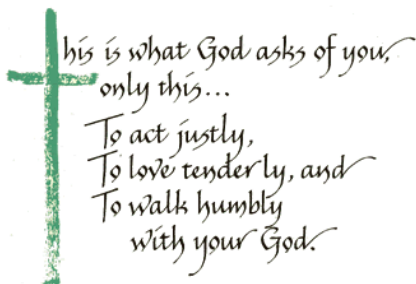
*God was not at their prayer desks with them. God was out in the streets, warming hands over a can of burning garbage with a bunch of drifters, delivering sacks of groceries down at the housing project, handing out blankets to those who slept shivering in the bushes...*

As we conclude our Lenten journey and prepare to go through Holy Week, let us be mindful that it is not just about our hosannas, our waving palm branches, or our standing at the foot of the cross. Those help us in our worship of God; however, that is not the fast (worship) God wants from us. God wants us, in the words of Micah, *To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.* God is found in the fight for the rights of people. God is found in the challenges to an unjust national budget that removes support from people who need it.

Our country is saying God is in the power of our nation, but that is not where God is. God is in relationships where we see the face of a brother or a sister in the faces of our neighbors and in the faces of strangers. Jesus did not tell people they had to pick themselves up by their bootstraps. He held out his hand and lifted them up into life again. If we are indeed a Christian people, we need to be about lifting people up into life again. We need to be about caring for all people, in whatever way they need to be cared for. This Holy week, may we once again claim the mantle of Christ and let go of our human needs for security, wealth, and power, and be more concerned with relationships and sharing. Remember, it was the need for security, wealth, and power that nailed Jesus to the cross in the first place.

See you in church!

Tom



micah 6:8

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling  
Feeding Those Who Hunger

## Worship Services and Scripture Passages for April

### April 2, 2017

### Service at our Church

- *Fifth Sunday in Lent*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection*  
Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130;  
Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45  
*Do We Want The Bones To Live?*

### April 9, 2017

- *Palm Sunday, Passion Sunday*  
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16;  
Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 21:1-11, 27:11-54  
*Are We Ready?*

### April 13, 2017 Service at Meyersville Presby. Church

- *Maundy Thursday*
- **Potluck Supper - 6:30 p.m.**
- **Worship - 7:30 p.m.**
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19;  
I Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-7, 31b-35  
*Rev. Barbara Aspinall Preaching*

### April 14, 2017

### Service at our Church

- *Good Friday, Tenebrae Service*  
Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22;  
Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42  
*Killing The Creator*

*Child Care is provided in the Nursery.*

*Children join their families in church and then leave for  
Christian Education classes after the Children's Talk.*

*Worship begins at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings,  
followed by Fellowship Hour in Pollard Hall.*



### April 16, 2017

- *The Day of Resurrection*
- **7:00 a.m. Service at Hillview Farm, Meyersville**
- **10:00 a.m. Service at our Church**
- **Travnicek Memorial Ringers**  
Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24;  
Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 27:62-28:10  
*Living With Emptiness*

### April 23, 2017

- *Second Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16;  
I Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31  
*Co-Existing In A World Of Humans*

### April 30, 2017

- *Third Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19;  
I Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35  
*Could We Encounter Christ On The Road?*

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**Scriptures that are listed after the first Gospel  
reading are non-lectionary passages  
that will be used in the sermon.  
All the scriptures are provided here for  
any weekly Bible reading you may do.**

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Rev. Peters' sermons and the scripture readings  
are posted on the church website.

Visit: [www.fpcstirling.org](http://www.fpcstirling.org), click on:  
"Sermon Archive," then select the sermon  
and/or scripture reading date you would like.



### Pastor's Coffee Klatch

The next Coffee Klatch will be on **Sat., April 1<sup>st</sup>, 9:00 a.m.**, at the Stirling House Diner. If you have a question, just want to talk, or have a friend you want to introduce to our church, plan to join Rev. Peters at the diner. Since he will not be doing any counseling, if you come and someone else is sitting with him, pull up a chair and join them.



**Newton Presbytery**

**- Madeline Hahl**

During its May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, Presbytery will be assembling 200 hygiene bags for Church World Service. **Our church has pledged to provide 25 bars of soap (wrapped) and 25 fabric hand towels**. If you would like to contribute towards our pledge, please sign up in Pollard Hall. For more information, contact Madeline Hahl.

**New Members and Infant Baptism**



During morning worship on Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, Kristin and Christian Linden joined our congregations as new members by their Reaffirmation of Faith. We also celebrated the baptism of their daughter, Alice Victoria Linden. We welcome Kris, Chris, and Alice to our church family.



Pictured here are: Rev. Peters, Sponsors Jennifer Heimall and Susan Hiller, Alice, Chris, and Kris.

**Christian Education Committee**

**- Lore Pateman**

**Adult Bible Study**

**- Rev. Peters**



We continue the study of the Book of Revelation at **10:30 a.m. on Thursdays in the church meeting room**.

**Four Churches Combine for Intriguing Lenten Series**

**- Debra Sprague**

The people of our nation continue to struggle with how our faith and our politics relate to each other. This is the question being addressed in this year's **Joint-Church Lenten Sunday Soup Supper and Study series**. We begin at 5:00 p.m. and finish by 7:00 p.m.



Our final session will address two important principles in the foundation of our nation: the free exercise of religion and **Separation of Church and State**.

Date	Host Church	Leader	Session Topic
April 2	Meyersville Presbyterian Church	Joel Biggers	Separation of Church and State

**Fourth Sunday Focus, April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**- Tom Parziale**

*Fourth Sundays* give us an opportunity to connect with other members of our church family in a relaxed atmosphere: a pot of tea, a Box o'Joe, Munchkins . . . and conversation. Our next "Fourth Sunday Focus" gathering will be on **April 23<sup>rd</sup>** in the meeting room. We start around **8:45 a.m.** and end by about 9:45 a.m., but join us whenever you can. **If you have a topic you'd like to discuss, contact Tom Parziale.**



**Worship Committee****- Janet Parziale****Liturgists for April:**

April 2	Madeline Hahl	April 23	Evelyn Smith
April 9	Tom Parziale	April 30	Madeline Hahl
April 16	Israel Sierra		



If you would like to serve as Liturgist during worship, sign up on the sheet in Pollard Hall or speak to Jan Somers.

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**Non-Perishable Food Collection, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**On the first Sunday of each month**, we collect donations of non-perishable food during the worship service. While we are receiving the Lord's Supper, we also want to provide for others. The food is donated to the township food pantry at St. Vincent Church. We continue to collect non-perishable food in the baskets located in the church entry-ways during the rest of the month.

**Palm Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>**

We begin the observance of Holy Week with our **Palm Sunday service at 10:00 a.m.** The congregation will receive branches of eco-palms, and we will celebrate Jesus' triumphant procession into Jerusalem.

**Maundy Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, at Meyersville Presbyterian Church**

We will join the congregation of Meyersville as we remember the Last Supper. There will be a **pot-luck supper at 6:30 p.m., followed by worship and the Sacrament of Holy Communion at 7:30 p.m.** Rev. Aspinnall will be preaching.

**Good Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, Stirling**

Our Holy Week observance concludes in Stirling as the congregation of Meyersville joins us **at 7:30 p.m.** to commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary.

**Resurrection Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>**

Our Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Sunday celebration begins when we join with Meyersville Presbyterian Church for a hilltop service at **Hillview Farm (223 Meyersville Rd.) in Meyersville at 7:00 a.m.**

We will then celebrate Christ's resurrection with a service in **our sanctuary at 10:00 a.m.** The Travnicek Memorial Ringers will be playing during worship.

Please consider bringing a friend to any of the services. Visitors are always welcome.

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**Deacons Corner****– Katherine Ihringer**

I just want to remind everyone to sign up for coffee hour. With only five Deacons, it is too much for us to rotate every week. Coffee hour does not have to be complicated. Or, if you don't want to host, but you would like to donate money, that would be great, too.

**April Special Mission Collection**

The Deacons have decided that since Lent extends into April, we will continue to collect our One Great Hour of Sharing offering during the month of April. Special offering envelopes and One Great Hour of Sharing envelopes are available in the church pew racks.



The funds for this offering are split among three groups under the Presbyterian Church USA umbrella: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Self-Development of People, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. These programs are very important in the life of our country and in the world. We hope you will give generously.

**Greeting Cards**

The Deacons are requesting donations of (new) greeting cards (birthday, get well, sympathy) that you are not planning to use. Please contact Carolyn Malfatone to donate cards or for more information. Thank you.

**Easter Flowers/Plants**

The Deacons are coordinating the ordering of flowers/plants to be placed on the chancel **for Easter** morning in memory or honor of someone special in your life. **Please use the form on page 9 of this newsletter or the forms available in the Sunday bulletin to place your order. The deadline to order is Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.**

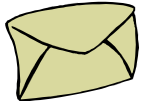
**Church Flowers**

Please sign up on the Flower Chart in Pollard Hall if you would like to place flowers on the chancel for Sunday morning worship in honor or memory of someone. Allow enough lead time to have them ordered for the date you would like. The cost is \$30, and cash or checks (made payable to: Flowers on the Ridge) should be given to Israel Sierra.



When you sign up on the flower chart, please be specific, i.e. *in memory/honor, given by*, and print clearly.

Although Israel is no longer serving on the Board of Deacons, he has agreed to continue taking care of the church flower orders. Thank you!

**Deacons' Fund**

Please remember to use the green Deacons' Fund envelopes for donations to help the Deacons with their Mission work. These envelopes are available in the pew racks or in the church office and may be placed in the offering plate. Thank you!

**Water Available During Worship**

There is a pitcher of water and cups available in the Church narthex in case you need a drink during worship. Please feel free to help yourself or signal an Usher to bring it to you.

**Mission Programs****Bridges Outreach Lunch Program**

- Jean Hoffman, Coordinator



Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 a.m.**, in Pollard Hall. We are in need of small bottles of water and cartons of juice; snacks of cookies, nuts, Goldfish, pretzels, etc.; and plastic spoons. Cash donations are also appreciated to help with the purchase of bread and lunch meat. You can drop items off in Pollard Hall on Sunday mornings, or give cash donations to Madeline or Jean.

Upcoming dates: May 5, June 9

**Souper Bowl of Caring**

- Tom Parziale



The money received from our Souper Bowl of Caring collection, a **record-breaking \$340**, has been distributed. The Deacons elected to donate \$170 to Family Promise and \$170 to the Market Street Mission in Morristown. Thank you again for your generous support in helping to fulfill our Church's mission, **Feeding Those Who Hunger.**

**Earth Day 2017 – April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

The theme for Earth Day 2017 is *Environmental and Climate Literacy*. "Before we can solve the dire environmental threats facing us in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we must build a global citizenry knowledgeable in environmental science and fluent in local and global ecological issues."

As Earth Day moves closer to its **50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020**, everyone is invited to join in helping to achieve the goal of **planting 7.8 billion trees—one for every person on the planet in 2020**. Trees help combat climate change. Trees help us breathe clean air. Trees help communities.



**When it comes to the Earth, there is no time to waste.**

## **Church Archives**

Please remember to forward news clippings, bulletins, programs, pictures, or other memorabilia regarding any member of our church family to the church office so our archives can be kept up-to-date. There is a **Church Archives** mail slot outside the church offices for this purpose.



Ellen Easty maintained the Church archives for many years. When Ellen moved to Heath Village in 2013, Rene' Phelan took over the job and continued to keep our records up-to-date. There is a book case in the back of Pollard Hall filled with binders that have been assembled through the years. Please take some time to look them over. If you are interested in working on the archives, please speak to Rev. Peters or Jan Somers. Thank you.

## **Church Website**

Our Church website, [www.fpcstirling.org](http://www.fpcstirling.org), is your source for church news, the Church calendar, Stirling Stuff, upcoming events/programs, Pastor's sermons, Scripture readings, Church history, and more. Please make it a point to log on regularly and keep up-to-date with what's happening.

## **Free Gentle Yoga Class - Meyersville Presbyterian Church**

Roseanne McGraw, a certified yoga teacher for 15 years, is teaching a free gentle yoga class in the parlor at Meyersville Presbyterian Church on **Tuesdays from 9:00-10:00 a.m.** The class is on-going, so you can join at any time.



You will not be sitting or lying on the floor, so just bring yourself in comfortable clothes, and invite friends along. This class will be appropriate for all, the flexible as well as the tight. Injuries will be accommodated. Yoga is relaxing, as well as good for general health; so, come give it a try.

Call or e-mail Rosanne with any questions or concerns: 908-508-1435, [rosanne.mcgraw@gmail.com](mailto:rosanne.mcgraw@gmail.com).

## **These Days**

*"These Days has been the concrete expression of the church's witness to the love of Jesus Christ to the world for more than three decades."*

Our Church has a subscription for multiple copies of this devotional booklet; they are available on the table in the Church narthex.



**Labels/Box Tops for Education; Pop-Top Can Tabs****- Jan Somers**

Please continue to save Labels for Education, Box Tops for Education, and pop-top can tabs. The labels are used by parent organizations in schools to earn educational and recreational items for students.



The can tabs are sold by weight to recycling centers, and the proceeds are donated to Ronald MacDonald House to help fund their programs for hospitalized children and their families. There is a collection canister in the church office. Thank you.

**Community News****- Jan Somers****Iconic Oak Tree to Be Cut Down**

The 600-year-old white oak tree located in Basking Ridge has died and will be cut down during the week of April 24<sup>th</sup>. The landmark tree that has called the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church home for centuries is located beside the church and has watched over parishioners and the adjacent graveyard for the past 300 years. Heroic efforts to save the tree failed.

Prior to the tree being chopped down, a 25-foot “baby oak” (pictured below), which was grown at Union Country College in their Historic Tree Grove from a seedling from one of the iconic oak’s acorns, will be transplanted to the church property.





**EASTER FLOWERS/PLANTS ORDER FORM**

The Deacons are coordinating the ordering of flowers/plants to be placed on the chancel for Easter morning in memory or honor of someone special in your life. Please use the form below or the forms available in the Sunday bulletin to place your order. **The deadline to order is Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.**

	<u>What Color?</u>	<u>How many?</u>	<u>Total Price</u>
<b>Azaleas</b> \$16.00 ea. (Red, White, Pink)	_____	_____	_____
<b>Daffodils</b> \$11.00 ea. (All Yellow)	_____	_____	_____
<b>Lilies</b> \$12.50 ea. (All White)	_____	_____	_____
<b>Tulips</b> \$11.00 ea. (Yellow, Pink, or Purple)	_____	_____	_____
<b>TOTALS</b>		_____	_____

Flowers are purchased in **MEMORY / HONOR** of:

Please circle one

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Given By:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please print clearly

To be picked up following worship on Easter morning: \_\_\_\_\_ To be planted at Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit your order and check to Israel Sierra or the church office, or place it in the offering plate.

**Deadline to order: Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>**

Make checks payable to: **Flowers on the Ridge** and note: **Easter Flowers** on your check. Thank you.

**2017 Session and Board of Deacons Responsibilities**

Listed below are the Session and Board of Deacons responsibilities for 2017:

**2017 Session Responsibilities**

Moderator	Rev. Peters
Clerk of Session	Lynn Blakeslee
Recording Clerk	Susan Brodziak
President of Trustees	Kai Ihringer
Christian Education	Joyce Koenig
Communications	Lynn Blakeslee
Facilities	Paul Wermuth
Fellowship/Membership	Kai Ihringer
Nominating	Yvonne Fletcher
Personnel	Ed Gerecht
Stewardship & Finance	Sandy Mackay
Worship	Joyce Koenig
Music Series	Ed Gerecht

**2017 Board of Deacons Responsibilities**

Moderator	Carolyn Malfatone
Coffee Supplies	Joanne Murphy
Corresponding Secretary	Carolyn Malfatone
Stirling Stuff "Deacons Corner"	Katherine Ihringer
Flowers	Israel Sierra*
Mission & Outreach	Rev. Tom Peters
Paraments	Dawn Mackay
Reception Coordinator	Carolyn Malfatone
Recording Secretary	Susan Gerecht
Treasurer	Carolyn Malfatone

\* Not currently on Board of Deacons

**Ongoing Mission Programs**

**Road to Bridges**

Change (and more) is collected during Fellowship Hour and supports Bridges Program, providing 40 lunches per month to NJ/NY homeless.

**Township Food Pantry**

Non-perishable items can be left in baskets labeled "Food Pantry Donations" in the Church narthex and outside Pollard Hall.

**Items collected for various causes; may be placed on the pew in Pollard Hall:**

- ✓ Full-sized and "courtesy" sized bars of soap, shampoo, conditioner, shower caps
- ✓ Cell phones, eyeglasses, sunglasses
- ✓ Fabric: about ½ yard minimum, used to make small bears for children, totes for wheelchair patients, etc.
- ✓ Yarn: used to make lap robes for wounded veterans, afghans for battered women, and hats for newborns in hospitals

**Ongoing Fundraisers**

**ShopRite Gift Cards**

- ✓ No additional cost to you to use
- ✓ Purchase cards at face value
- ✓ Church earns 5%
- ✓ Denominations available are:  
**\$20, \$50, \$100**

Gift Cards are available each week during Fellowship Hour or by contacting Madeline Hahl.

**iGive**

- ✓ No cost to you
- ✓ Log on / sign up / find out more at:  
<http://www.igive.com/FirstPresbyterianChurch-StirlingNJ>
- ✓ E-mail this information to your friends

**Please e-mail submissions for the March issue of Stirling Stuff to:**  
[jsomers17@hotmail.com](mailto:jsomers17@hotmail.com)  
by **April 20th**. Thank you!

*Stirling Stuff* is the newsletter of

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling

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**Our Mission**

Jesus said, "Feed My Sheep." This welcoming and caring family, empowered by the love of Christ, shares the grace and peace of God's blessings by serving those who are hungry in body or spirit.

**Why not invite a friend to church?**

