



Stirling Stuff

Volume 61, No. 10

November 2017

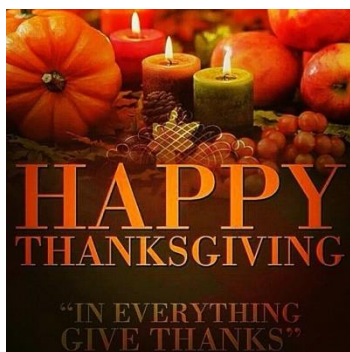
Pastor's Letter

This image is of a cemetery in Poland on All Saints Day. I love the beauty of candles lighting the graves of friends and family. It reminds us that we did not just drop into this life, but there are those who have come and gone before us. In the routine of our days, it is so easy to say, "I am where I am because of my own efforts." Literally, this is not true. We would not be where we are, we would not even be, if it were not for others. We are the product of the choices and guidance of others; they were our light in our darkness.



I like that November begins with All Saints Day and almost ends with Thanksgiving. Both of these holidays are based on relationships---relationships that gave us life and light and a recognition that we need to give thanks for those who have given us so much, which also includes God. When we grew up, most of our parents taught/forced us to sit down and write thank you notes to people who had given us birthday or Christmas gifts. However, in our adult years, many forget or feel they don't have the time to write those notes anymore. How often do we say thank you to the person who serves us in the restaurant, or to the person collecting the grocery carts in the parking lot and putting them by the door so we can grab a cart on the way into the store?

It is so easy to get wrapped up in our lives that we don't see what others are doing for us. We pass by them like strangers in the night. How can we become aware of others and what they do for us? I would like to suggest that you start a "Thank You" journal. Every night, take a few minutes to write down 3-5 things that happened to/for you that day for which you are thankful. Let it be a way for you to just become aware. When we are more aware, it is easy to see how much happens to us for which we can be thankful.



Happy Thanksgiving

Tom

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for November

November 5, 2017 At Meyersville Presby. Church

- *All Saints Sunday, Pentecost 22A*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection – Fruit Cocktail*
Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22;
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12
Rev. Barbara Aspinall Preaching

November 12, 2017

- *Pentecost 23A*
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7;
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13
Keeping the Tank Filled

November 19, 2017

- *Pentecost 24A*
Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123;
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30
Church Got Talent

*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.*

November 26, 2017

- *Reign of Christ Sunday*
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100;
Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46
Privilege and Responsibility

**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.**

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

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



Pastor's Coffee Klatch

The monthly Coffee Klatch will be on **Sat., Nov. 4th, 9:00 a.m.**, at the Stirling House Diner.
We talk about whatever is on your mind. Come join the fellowship and conversation.



Family Promise Hosting, Fri.-Sat., Nov. 3rd-4th

Our final 2017 responsibility for hosting Family Promise clients is from
**dinner on Friday, Nov. 3rd, through breakfast on Sat., Nov. 4th, at
Trinity House in Stirling.**



We still need 2 volunteers to stay overnight with the guests (9 p.m.-7 a.m.), provide breakfast (pancakes), and serve as hosts on Saturday morning. Come, help out, and get a taste for just how difficult it is to be homeless. Contact Rev. Peters if you can help.

Thanksgiving Turkey/Ham Donations

Thanksgiving is November 23rd. The supermarkets are once again promoting free turkeys/ham for the holiday season. As you sit down to enjoy Thanksgiving with your family, please remember those less fortunate, and consider donating a turkey or ham. This is the time of year when there is a great need for food donations and when organizations provide a decent meal to a larger number of people.



The church will be collecting the turkeys (please keep them frozen) and hams on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, November 19th. They will be brought to the Market Street Mission in Morristown for distribution. Your support of this program is very much appreciated.

CROP Walk

- Debra Sprague



On October 15th, our FPC-Stirling walkers joined with several other groups for the 3-mile walk in New Providence to end hunger.

Thank you to all the walkers and those who sponsored them. The amount raised has not been finalized, and donations can still be made through our church's team page:

<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/newprovidencenj/Team/View/47055/First-Presbyterian-Church-of-Stirling>



Pictured here: Katherine & Kai Ihringer, Debra Sprague, Sue Wermuth, Lore Pateman, Elaine Giordano, Rev. Peters, Janet & Tom Parziale, and Jan Somers and her granddaughter, Paige Szewczuk.

The Concert Series in Stirling

On **Sunday, November 12th, at 2:00 p.m.**, we will welcome Yukiki Tanaka, classical pianist and chamber musician. This will be Ms. Tanaka's fourth appearance since she opened our concert series in October 2015. She always looks forward to coming back to play for us. Ms. Tanaka is of the Beethoven-Liszt piano teaching lineage and will feature these composers in her program. The second half of her program this time will feature her expertise in Spanish and Latin American Music.

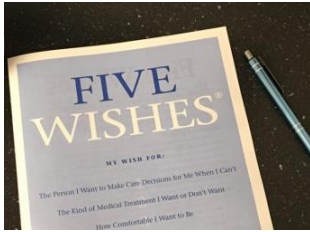


Admission is free; a free-will offering is accepted. A short reception will follow the concert, during which guests may meet the performer. Refreshments will be served. We hope you will invite your family and friends and join us.

One of the goals of our Concert Series is to bring new people into our church through music. Our Concert committee could use your help with the following:

- contacting potential sponsors
- helping with Hospitality - set up/clear up the post-concert reception

If YOU can help with either of these tasks, please contact Debra Sprague or Rev. Peters. **Thank you!**

Christian Education Committee**- Lore Pateman****Five Wishes**

Many of you attended the *Five Wishes* session we held last winter. *Five Wishes* is a program that helps individuals to think about what they want and don't want in their last days, when they may not be able to make their own decisions. It also guides you through finding a health care agent and sharing your wishes with your family.

On **Sunday, Nov. 19th**, we will have a brief follow-up session to give you an opportunity to ask questions and share how you are doing with it. We hope you will join us. If you could not make the program last winter, we still have some booklets we would be happy to share with you.

Child Care/Nursery During Sunday Worship - We Need Your Help

Proverbs 22:6 -- "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."



We have some small ones coming to church and want to remind everyone that having a nursery is something our congregation has offered in the past, and it is important that we offer it now. It was one of the reasons I joined the church so many years ago (plus Rev. Peters and the wonderful folks at the church!). The church's policy is that there should always be 2 people in the nursery room with the children. So, be prepared to help if asked some Sunday. Children are such a joy - I'm sure it will start your Sunday off right!

**Adult Bible Study****- Rev. Peters**

Our **Bible Study of the Gospel of Luke** continues on **Thursday mornings from 10:30 a.m. – noon**. We invite you to join us in our study of Rev. Dr. Fred Craddock's book, *Luke*.

Fourth Sunday Focus, November 26th**- 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 **Nov. 26th** 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.**

**"Bipolar Disorder and the Effects on the Individual"**

On Sept. 24th, Katherine Ihringer presented a program on "Bipolar Disorder and the Effects on the Individual" to family, friends, and congregation members who attended. Katherine is a recent college graduate with a BA in Psychology and is now working on her Masters in Counseling, with a specialization in School Counseling. Bipolar disorder is a mental illness that is misunderstood by many. The presentation provided attendees with a solid understanding of the illness, and a wealth of information was distributed in an interactive setting. The Behavioral Health field is advancing each day, and Katherine's exceptional presentation will help everyone better understand this illness and promote acceptance of those living with it. Thank you, Katherine!

Worship Committee**- Janet Parziale****All Saints Sunday, November 5th, in Meyersville**

On Nov. 5th, at the Meyersville Presbyterian Church, we will be observing **All Saints Sunday**, a day when Christians give thanks for all the good people God has placed in their lives. During this service, we will take time to remember those special people we have lost during the past year, and a candle will be lit as each name is read aloud.

**Non-Perishable Food Collection (Fruit Cocktail), Nov. 5th - in Meyersville**

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.

The congregation at Meyersville Presbyterian Church has pledged to donate canned mixed fruit, sometimes labeled "fruit cocktail," to the township food pantry. Since we will be worshipping at Meyersville on Nov. 5th, please consider bringing this item (preferably the kind in juice and not syrup) to donate when we are there.

**Heritage Sunday, December 3rd**

On **Dec 3rd** the church will be celebrating Heritage Sunday. Once again, bagpiper Dave Palladino, will play the tune Richard Streeton composed for our church entitled, "Stirling on the Hill." Rev. Peters will be leading a Scottish service, including the procession of a beadle by our clerk of session, Lynn Blakeslee.

Following the service, the Worship Committee will be hosting a special fellowship hour with lots of Scottish treats and invites anyone who enjoys baking to bring their favorite Scottish goodies to share. Some of the treats we are planning are scones, shortbread, and, of course, a fine pot of tea!



Please plan to join us and invite neighbors and friends for this festive service as we celebrate our church's Scottish heritage, and remember to **wear or bring a piece of plaid.**

First Sunday of Advent

It's hard to believe, but **December 3rd** is also the first Sunday of Advent, and we will begin a special program that will continue for the four Sundays in the season of Advent. Members of the congregation will be asked to participate in readings and lighting the Advent candles. Please plan to join us as we begin our journey to Christmas.



Deacons Corner**– Katherine Ihringer****Mission of the Month**

Our ***Mission of the Month*** for November is **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**. The funds collected will be directed to victims of Hurricane Maria, which devastated Puerto Rico. Please give generously to this collection and the aid it will provide.



Fellowship Hour

I just want to remind everyone to sign up to host a Fellowship Hour. It does not have to be complicated. If you don't want to host, but would like to donate towards someone else hosting, that would be great, too.

Church Flowers

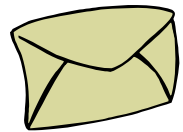
Please sign up on the Flower Chart in Pollard Hall if you would like to place flowers on the chancel for Sunday morning worship in honor or memory of someone. Allow enough lead time to have them ordered for the date you would like. The cost is \$30, and cash or checks (made payable to: **Flowers on the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

Deacons' Fund

Please use the **green Deacons' Fund envelopes** for donations to help the Deacons with their Mission work. They are available in the pew racks or in the church office and may be placed in the offering plate. **Remember to put your name on the envelope so you can receive credit for your donation.** Thank you!



Mission Programs**Bridges Outreach Lunch Program****– Jean Hoffman**

Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, November 3rd, 9:30 a.m.**, in Pollard Hall. We are always 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: Dec. 8 and Jan. 5

Community Food Bank, Saturday, November 18th**- Kai Ihringer**

Our next trip to the Community Food Bank of NJ in Hillside is on **Sat., Nov. 18th**. This is a great opportunity to help fulfill our church's mission of "Feeding Those Who Hunger," while also enjoying the comradery of our fellow volunteers. Please reach out to community members who may be interested in joining us.

Here is the relevant information:

Date: Sat., Nov. 18th

Departure: Meet at 8 a.m. in the church parking lot;
leave for Hillside by 8:15 a.m.

Food Bank Slot: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Return: Back at church parking lot between 11:30 a.m. and Noon



Please contact Kai asap if you can help out on Nov. 18th.

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** mailbox outside the church offices for this purpose. If you are interested in helping to keep the archives current, please speak to Rev. Peters or Jan Somers.

**Church Website**

Our Church website, www.fpcstirling.org, is a good 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.

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.

**Free Gentle Yoga Class – Meyersville Presbyterian Church**

Roseanne McGraw, a certified yoga teacher, programs, Roseann McGraw, a certified yoga teacher, is teaching free yoga classes in the parlor at Meyersville Presbyterian Church on Tuesdays, from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. The classes are 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. The classes are 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 email Roseanne with questions or concerns: 908-508-1435, rosanne.mcgraw@gmail.com.

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 assist people on dialysis. There is a collection canister in the church office. Thank you.



Community News/Items of Interest**- Jan Somers**

Please forward items you would like to have included in upcoming Stirling Stuff issues to Jan Somers, or place them in the "Stirling Stuff" mailbox outside the church offices. Thank you.



Tuesday,
November 7th



Ongoing Mission Programs

Road to Bridges

Change (and more) is collected during Fellowship Hour and supports the Road to 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, to make small bears for children, totes for wheelchair patients, etc.
Yarn: 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 November issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by **November 20th**. Thank you!

Stirling Stuff is the newsletter of

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling

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Why not invite a friend to church?



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.

