



Stirling Stuff

Volume 62, No. 4

April 2018

Pastor's Letter

The other day I saw my daffodil leaves poking up through the snow, along with the leaves of some of my other flowers. The strength and tenacity of plants to make their entrance on time is amazing. This tenacity and power reminded me of the *Season of Easter*.

During the month of April, we are in the *Season of Easter*. Easter is too big for one Sunday. The *Season of Easter* is 8 weeks long; it goes from Easter to Pentecost Sunday (this year on May 20th). However, Easter is so big that every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection. The reason is that if there had not been some kind of a resurrection then there would have been no church, no Christian religion. That is the power of Easter, the power to create a church and a religion.

The problem is that we sell Easter short. We don't claim the power of Easter for our church or for our own personal lives. Unlike the daffodil leaves, we don't let the resurrection empower us -- lift us up through the trials of life. I've used the following by Rev. Johnny Ray Youngblood in some Easter sermons; it speaks to the power of resurrection in people's lives:

"The reason we're here this morning is not just because a resurrection happened, but because there's one goin' on. Every time I see a brother or sister come to Christ, there's a resurrection goin' on. Every time I see a man put down his bottle, there's a resurrection goin' on. Every time I see someone [a man] go back to school, there's a resurrection goin' on. Every time I see a man hug his son, there's a resurrection goin' on."

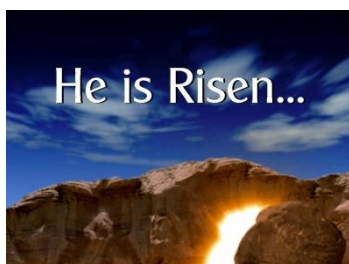
["Upon This Rock: The Miracles of a Black Church" by Samuel Freedman]

Easter is too big to cram into one day. The resurrection is too big for 8 weeks or even 52 weeks of Sundays. It is meant to be celebrated, needs to be celebrated and lived, every day of the year. During the month of April, spend some time asking yourself the question "Is my life centered in the resurrection?" Spend some time thinking about how your life would be different if it was centered in the resurrection. We like to think that the eternal life that begins at the resurrection is a future event; but, the gospel writers, especially the writer of John, talk about the resurrection happening, starting in this life. We enjoy the fruits of eternal life now in this life.

See you in Church!

Tom

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger



Worship Services and Scripture Passages for April

April 1, 2018

- *The Day of Resurrection*
 - *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
 - *Travnicek Memorial Ringers*
 - *Non-Perishable Food Collection*
- 7:00 a.m. Service at Hillview Farm, Gillette**
10:00 a.m. Service at our Church
 Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24;
 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18

April 8, 2018

- *Second Sunday of Easter*
 Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133;
 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

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



April 15, 2018

- *Third Sunday of Easter*
 Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4;
 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

April 22, 2018

- *Fourth Sunday of Easter*
 Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23;
 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

April 29, 2018

- *Fifth Sunday of Easter*
- *Archive Sunday*
 Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31;
 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

**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: <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 monthly Coffee Klatch will be on **Sat., April 7th, 9:00 a.m.**, at the Stirling House Diner.
 We talk about whatever is on your mind. Come join the fellowship and conversation.



Handbell Choir

The Travnicek Memorial Ringers will be playing on Easter morning. The introit is *Festive Intrada*, by Cynthia Dobrinski, and *Up From the Grave He Rose*, arranged by John C. Dare.

The Concert Series in Stirling**- Debra Sprague**

Our next concert will be on **Sunday, April 15th, at 2:00 p.m.**, when we will present **classical pianist Itay Goren**, who is making his concert series debut. He will perform Robert Schumann's "Carnival Scenes from Vienna," Claude Debussy's "Images, Book 1," and Modest Mussorgsky's "Pictures At An Exhibition."



Described as "an evocative journey from shimmering excitement to calm contemplation (Classical New Jersey), pianist Itay Goren's performances touch the heart and magically transport the imagination of the listener."

The concert is free; a free-will offering is accepted. A short reception follows 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 for beautiful music played in our sanctuary.

Grief Recovery Group

When you experience loss, people say you have to let go and go on with your life; but, they don't tell you how to do that. The Grief Recovery Method Support Group teaches you how to recover from loss with supportive guidance every step of the way. Remember, time alone will not heal your broken heart.

Rev. Barbara Peters is starting a **Grief Recovery Group in April; it will meet once a week for 8 weeks**. The meeting times are as follows: **Tuesdays, April 10, 17, 24, and May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, from 7:00-9:00 p.m., at Wilson Memorial Church, 7 Valley Rd., Watchung**. To let Rev. Barbara Peters know you are interested, or to find out more details, please email her at stirlingpeters@verizon.net by April 5th.

Christian Education Committee**- Lore Pateman****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**.

Brunch and Learn Presentation

On **Sunday, April 22nd**, the CE committee will be hosting a **brunch and discussion on #MeToo**. This is the movement we have been hearing a lot about recently regarding sexual misconduct. Please watch for more information in the Sunday bulletins, and plan to attend this timely program.

**Fourth Sunday Focus, April 22nd****- 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 22nd 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:**

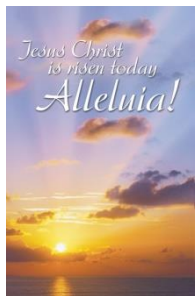
April 1	Lore Pateman	April 22	Evelyn Smith
April 8	Tom Parziale	April 29	Israel Sierra
April 15	Janet Parziale		



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

Non-Perishable Food Collection, April 1st

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.

**Resurrection/Easter Sunday, April 1st**

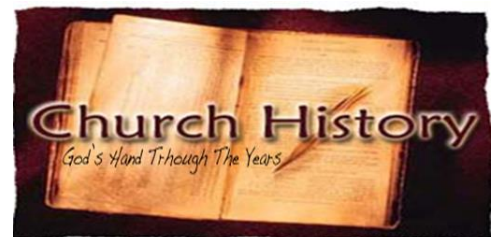
Our Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Sunday morning will begin at **7:00 a.m. with a service in the orchard at Hillview Farm, 223 Meyersville Rd., Gillette.**

We will then celebrate Christ's resurrection with a service in **our sanctuary at 10:00 a.m.**

Please plan to attend the joyous celebrations!

Archive Sunday, April 29th

The Worship Committee will be hosting a special **Fellowship Hour and Archive Sunday on April 29th** following morning worship. The books filled with our church's history will be on display for everyone to peruse. At that time, **everyone will be invited to share a special/favorite memory of the church.** Please start thinking about it now so you can have something ready on the 29th.

**Deacons' Corner****- Janet Parziale****Mission of the Month**

Our Mission of the Month for April is **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)**. A gift to OGHS enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need in this country and around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, food to the hungry, and empowerment to the poor and oppressed.

OGHS supports three entities within our Presbyterian Church USA mission program: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. Please use the special envelopes in the pews for this purpose. Thank you in advance for supporting this program.

Mission of the Month - A Look Ahead to May



The Deacons have chosen the Church World Service (CWS) and their “Blanket Month Appeal” for our **Mission of the Month in May**. In 2017, CWS distributed thousands of woolen blankets throughout the world, and they are hoping to do the same this year. The blankets have been used in many ways – to help families driven from their homes due to hurricanes, tornadoes, or other disasters; to keep the homeless warm; to carry personal belongings; and, to cover a window broken in a storm to keep the cold air out.

We will be getting a sample blanket for you to see and, during the month of May, we will be collecting \$10 per blanket. We hope you will support this worthy endeavor. Check out the May issue of Stirling Stuff for more information.

Update on February Mission of the Month: Souper Bowl of Caring

Throughout of the month of February, we collected for Souper Bowl of Caring. Your generous **donations totaled \$333**, which the Deacons have voted to split between Family Promise of Morris County and the Market Street Mission in Morristown. Thank you to everyone who supported this special mission program.



Fellowship Hour



Fellowship Hour is a very special time following each weekly worship service. It is a chance to share stories of the week and catch up with each other. Please consider helping with this important part of our church life by signing up to host one yourself or with a partner or simply by donating money to be used to provide some delicious goodies for the morning. If you wish to donate money, please give it to a Deacon, or place it in the offering plate in an envelope marked “Fellowship Hour.”

In an effort to save money and be more ecologically responsible, the Deacons have decided to use the Syracuse ceramic coffee cups found in the kitchen cupboards. If you are hosting Fellowship Hour, we hope you will join us in this effort. Thank you.



Visiting Nurse

Joyce Koenig has volunteered to be a Visiting Nurse for members of our church. She will be making visitations on her own and with Rev. Peters and is also available to answer your health-related questions. Thank you, Joyce; your assistance is greatly appreciated.



Easter Plants

Thank you to everyone who purchased Easter plants. They served as a beautiful display in our sanctuary. If you plan to take your plant, please do so following the Easter Sunday worship service. Plants that are left will be planted around the church grounds.

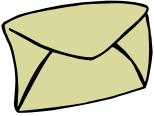


Church Flowers

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.**

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.



2018 Session

2018 Session Responsibilities

President of Trustees	Ed Gerecht
Clerk of Session	Lynn Blakeslee
Recording Clerk of Session	Susan Brodziak
Facilities & Property Management	Paul Wermuth
Christian Education	Susan Brodziak
Fellowship and Membership	Session
Stewardship and Finance	Sandy Mackay
Worship	Paul Wermuth
Nominating	Kai Ihringer
Communication	Yvonne Fletcher
Personnel	Ed Gerecht

Mission Programs

Bridges Outreach Lunch Program

- Jean Hoffman



Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, April 4th, 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 Jean. If you'd like to help with this program, please speak to Jean.

Upcoming dates: May 4, June 8, July 13, Aug. 3, Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, and Dec. 7

Family Promise of Morris County

- Jan Somers



Thank you to those who helped out on Wed., March 28th with hosting the guests of Family Promise at Trinity House in Stirling. To everyone who purchased and/or prepared food, hosted for dinner and the evening, or stayed overnight with the guests – your help is very much appreciated!

Church Archives

A small group of congregation members met recently to work on updating the Church Archives in time for Archive Sunday later this month. A suggestion that came out of that workday is that when newspaper articles, pictures, etc. are submitted, **please be sure they are dated and, if possible, the names of church members and/or families are highlighted.**



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

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

"To nurture the daily practice of prayer and the reading of Scripture, there is solid help in the pages of 'These Days.' The devotions wrestle faithfully with the doubts, joys, and challenges of the Christian life."



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

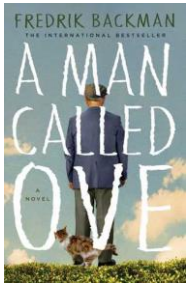
Free Gentle Yoga Class – Meyersville Presbyterian Church

Roseann McGraw, a certified yoga teacher, offers 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.

Meyersville Presbyterian Church Book Club**- Jan Somers**

The Book Club is currently reading the novel, "**A Man Called Ove**," by Fredrik Backman. They will meet in the parlor at Meyersville on Tuesday, May 1st, 7:30 p.m. to discuss the book. Everyone is welcome to join the group. Please contact Rev. Aspinall or Jan Somers for a copy of the book.

"Ove (Rolf Lassgård) is the quintessential angry old man next door. An isolated retiree with strict principles and a short fuse, who spends his days enforcing block association rules that only he cares about, and visiting his wife's grave, Ove has given up on life. After a boisterous young family moves in next door and accidentally flattens Ove's mailbox, an unlikely friendship forms."

Computer Classes in Meyersville

Ruud Zijdel from the Meyersville Church is offering a **12-week series of computer classes, which will begin on Saturday, April 7th, 9:00-11:00 a.m.** This **hands-on training of Windows 10** will include: getting started and customizing Windows 10; Microsoft Word, Excel, and Publisher; surfing the web; sending and receiving emails; working with files; performing day-to-day tasks with Apps; editing documents; sharing your computer; and implementing security. To sign up and/or get specific dates for topics you are interested in, email Ruud at ruudz@aol.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.

**Earth Day 2018 Theme: End Plastic Pollution****- Jan Somers**

Earth Day 2018 is dedicated to providing information and inspiration needed to change human attitude and behavior about plastics.

From poisoning and injuring marine life to disrupting human hormones, from littering our beaches and landscapes to clogging our waste streams and landfills, the exponential growth of plastics is now threatening the survival of our planet. Together, we can make a difference.

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



Community Events

Boy Scout Troop 59 Fund Raiser

- Ed Gerecht

On **Saturday, April 28th**, from 7-10 p.m., **Boy Scout Troop 59**, which our church sponsors, will be holding a **Comedy Night Fundraiser** at the **Millington Fire House**. There will be music by *Dan and Shane* and a 50/50 raffle. **Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door**. Please talk it up to your friends and neighbors. Contact Ed Gerecht for more information and to purchase tickets.

Raptor Trust Fundraiser

- Jan Somers

Once again, Ross Griswold is spearheading a **Benefit Concert and Auction for the Raptor Trust**. It will be held on **Sunday, May 20th**, from 2-8 p.m., at the **Stirling Hotel**. All the information is on the poster shown here. I hope you will come out and support Ross's efforts on behalf of our local treasure!

**ROCK OUT
WITH THE
RAPTOR
TRUST** BENEFIT CONCERT
AND AUCTION

**SUNDAY
MAY 20, 2018**

2-8 PM
The Stirling Hotel
227 Main Ave, Stirling, NJ 07980

With live music from:
Ross Griswold and the Second Line
and special guests
The Raccoon Ridge Ramblers

Featuring booths from our community partners
and local environmental organizations

2-4 PM Live raptors on display with
TRT Education Staff
Community partner tabletops
and activities

4-7 PM Live music

2-6 PM Silent auction

**Tricky Tray!
Silent Auction!
50/50 Raffle!
Family Games
and Activities!**

All proceeds benefit the Raptor Trust
(suggested donation \$5)

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 food 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 Yvonne Fletcher.

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
by **April 19th**. 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.