



# Stirling Stuff

Volume 62, No. 2

February 2018

## Pastor's Letter

What is love? Today when someone says the word, "love," they generally mean sexual love. They use phrases like, "People make love with one another." It is the act. Christian novelist and writer, Frederick Buechner, writes the following about *love*:



*The first stage is to believe that there is only one kind of love. The middle stage is to believe that there are many kinds of love and that the Greeks had a different word for each of them. The last stage is to believe that there is only one kind of love.*

*The unabashed eros of lovers, the sympathetic philia of friends, agape giving itself away freely no less for the murderer than for the victim (the King James Version translates it as "charity") -- these are all varied manifestations of a single reality. To lose yourself in another's arms, or in another's company, or in suffering for all who suffer, including the ones who inflict suffering upon you -- to lose yourself in such ways is to find yourself. Is what it's all about. Is what love is.*

There are a number of different kinds of love in the Greek New Testament and, in one sense, they all mean the same thing; but, in another sense, they all mean something different.

This year, the season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. Lent begins on that great day of the celebration of love, Valentine's Day. At the suggestion of a member of the Worship Committee, I will be doing a Lenten series on *love* entitled, *Which Love Do You Mean?* My purpose in this series is that by understanding the varied meanings of *love*, we can reclaim the nuances of the word "love" and can, therefore, have a fuller understanding of a word that gets used a lot in the Church. Please join me, and let us journey together to learn what ultimately is the *love of God*.

I want to say a big thank you to the members of the church for your generous Christmas gift. I am touched by the many ways you have reached out to share your love with me over the years.

See you in Church!

*Tom*



The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling  
Feeding Those Who Hunger

## Worship Services and Scripture Passages for February

### February 4, 2018

### Worship at Stirling

- *Fifth Sunday of Epiphany*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Ordination and Installation of Church Officers*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection*  
Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11;  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39  
*Having The Vision Of Grasshoppers*

### February 11, 2018

- *Transfiguration Sunday*  
2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6;  
2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9  
*Sometimes We Need To Just Not Talk*

### February 14, 2018

### Worship at Meyersville

- *Ash Wednesday*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Service of Ashes*  
Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17;  
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21  
*Which Love Do You Mean?*  
1. Love, Keep Yourself to Yourself

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*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.*

### February 18, 2018

- *First Sunday in Lent*  
Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10;  
1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15  
*Which Love Do You Mean?*  
2. Eros - Love From Cupid's Arrow

### February 25, 2018

- *Second Sunday in Lent*  
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31;  
Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38  
*Which Love Do You Mean?*  
3. Philia – The Love Of Friends

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**Scripture readings in worship on the last two  
Sundays of February will be somewhat different.  
I have included the lectionary readings for these  
two Sunday for your own scripture reading time.**

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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 monthly Coffee Klatch will be on **Sat., February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00 a.m.**, at the Stirling House Diner.  
We talk about whatever is on your mind. Come join the fellowship and conversation.



### **Per Capita Apportionment**



The 2018 Per Capita amount we are being assessed **per member is \$35**. This money enables the Presbyterian Church (USA) and its Councils (Presbytery and Synod) to do their work. Please help out by paying the \$35 for everyone in your family who is a member of the church. The Per Capita envelope can be found in the front of your offering envelopes box. Thank you.

### **Travnicek Memorial Ringers**

The Travnicek Memorial Ringers will be playing "There Is a Balm in Gilead" during morning worship on **Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>**. Plan to join us and enjoy the beautiful music of our handbell choir.



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

Our next concert will be on **Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 p.m.**, when we will welcome **classical pianist Tian Yi Li**. He is the third prize winner (first prize vacant) of the 6<sup>th</sup> Tbilisi International Piano Competition in 2017, where he had his concerto debut with Tbilisi Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Volodymyr Sirenko. He has given concerts and recitals at venues including Weill Recital Hall of Carnegie Hall, Salle Cortot, and Shenzhen Poly Theater.

**The program will include:**

- L.V. Beethoven: Sonata Op.53 "Waldstein" in C Major
- S. Rachmaninoff: Etudes-Tableaux Op.33
- J. S. Bach: Prelude and Fugue BWV873 in C-Sharp Minor
- R. Schumann: Grand Sonata No.3 Op.14 in F Minor
- C. Debussy: L'isle Joyeuse



The concerts are 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.

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, even for one concert, please contact Debra Sprague or Rev. Peters. **Thank you!**

**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**

Following morning worship on **Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>**, the Christian Education Committee will host another **Brunch and Learn** session. **Judy Carbone will give a presentation about alcoholism, addiction, and the opioid epidemic**. America's addiction epidemic is being confronted at the local, state, and federal level. Judy has been active with the Watchung Hills Regional Municipal Alliance, both in support activities and presentations. She has made presentations at our town's schools and Watchung Hills Regional High School. Kudos to America for recognizing the epidemic and to Judy for helping to educate people. Consider attending the **Brunch and Learn**. Knowledge is a key in confronting the epidemic.



**Fourth Sunday Focus, February 25<sup>th</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 **Feb. 25<sup>th</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 February:**

Feb. 4	Tom Parziale	Feb. 18	Madeline Hahl
Feb. 11	Kai Ihringer	Feb. 25	Madeline Hahl



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, February 4<sup>th</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.

**Ash Wednesday Service**

On **Wed., February 14<sup>th</sup>**, we will begin our Lenten Journey with the celebration of **Ash Wednesday**. This joint service will be held at the **Meyersville Presbyterian Church at 7:30 p.m.** Rev. Peters will be leading this service, which will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion and the Service of Ashes. Please join us in Meyersville for this service.

**Deacons Corner****- Janet Parziale****Christmas Decoration Cleanup**

The Deacons extend a very big thanks to everyone who helped on Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> to take down the tree, the ornaments, and the greens from the pews and windows. This is a big task, but with many hands, the work was easily accomplished. Thank you all!

**Mission of the Month**

Our **Mission of the Month for February** is the **Souper Bowl of Caring**. If you would like to contribute, please use the special "Mission of the Month" offering envelopes in the pew racks on any Sunday during February. Thank you.



## Fellowship Hour



Fellowship Hour is a very special time of fellowship following each weekly worship service. It is a wonderful time to share stories of the week and catch up with each other over our busy work weeks. 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."

What is involved in hosting? The coffee, sugar, plates, napkins, and cups are all available in the kitchen. You can bring milk for coffee/tea (usually about a quart), juice (or simply use water), and some goodies (baked goods, fruit, pretzels, and/or popcorn are some examples) to set out on the table. Coffee and tea are normally served during the fall, winter, and spring. During the summer, we serve cold drinks. If you need help setting up the coffee and tea, please feel free to ask any Deacon or other member of the congregation. Your Fellowship Hour can be as simple or as elaborate as you want. They are fun to do and thoroughly appreciated by all.

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## Church Flowers

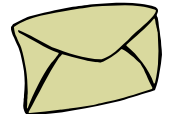
Please sign up on the Flower Chart in Pollard Hall if you would like to place flowers on the chancel for Sunday morning worship in honor or memory of someone. Allow enough lead time to have them ordered for the date you would like. The cost is \$30, and cash or checks (made payable to: Flowers on the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




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## 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!




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## Mission Programs

### Souper Bowl of Caring Collection

- Tom Parziale



In 1990 in South Carolina, a simple prayer: "*Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat*" inspired a youth-led movement to help hungry and hurting people around the world.

This year, we will begin our participation in this program with a special collection on **February 4<sup>th</sup>, Super Bowl Sunday, as you leave morning worship**. The offering will then continue throughout February as our designated Mission of the Month. Last year, we collected \$340 and split the donation between Family Promise of Morris County and the Market Street Mission in Morristown. In 2017, over \$10,000,000 in total donations was received from 6,531 groups. Please consider donating to this cause. For more information, please go to: <https://souperbowl.org/welcome>

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**Bridges Outreach Lunch Program**

- Jean Hoffman



Due to the possibility of bad weather and the resulting travel difficulties for our volunteers, we will not be preparing lunches for January-March. Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 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. If you'd like to help with this program, please speak to Jean or Madeline.

**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 everyone who helped with our hosting responsibility on Thurs., January 11<sup>th</sup>, at Trinity House in Stirling. Your efforts were very much appreciated by all of the guests. **Our next responsibility is Wed., March 28<sup>th</sup>.** Please watch for more information in the March newsletter.

**New Church Sign**

- Rev. Peters



Members and friends of our congregation gathered on the front lawn following morning worship on December 24<sup>th</sup> to "welcome" our new sign.

**Church Archives**

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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. **(Please date items you leave in the mailbox.)**

## **Church Website**

Our Church website, [www.fpcstirling.org](http://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**

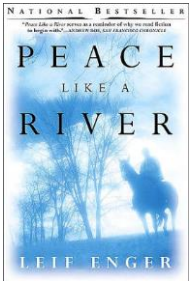
*"To nurture the daily practice of prayer and the reading of Scripture, there is solid help in the pages of 'These Days.' The devotions wrestle faithfully with the doubts, joys, and challenges of the Christian life."*



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

## **Meyersville Presbyterian Church Book Club**

**- Jan Somers**



The Book Club is currently reading, "Peace Like A River," by Leif Enger. The group will meet in the parlor at Meyersville on Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m. to discuss the book. Everyone is welcome to join the group.

*"Peace Like a River" is the best-selling novel by Leif Enger, who took the title from the lyrics of the hymn "It Is Well With My Soul," which was performed at his wedding. Dead for 10 minutes before his father orders him to breathe in the name of the living God, Reuben Land is living proof that the world is full of miracles. But it's the impassioned honesty of his quiet, measured narrative voice that gives weight and truth to the fantastic elements of this engrossing tale.*

## **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](mailto: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.





**Christmas Pageant**

During morning worship on Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup>, we enjoyed a special Christmas Pageant, "A View from the Field," adapted by Rev. Barbara Aspinall, who narrated the program. It was a shared service for Stirling and Meyersville, with members from each church participating in telling the Christmas story. Here are some pictures from the pageant:





### 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 March issue of Stirling Stuff to:**  
[jsomers17@hotmail.com](mailto:jsomers17@hotmail.com)  
by **February 15<sup>th</sup>**. 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.

