



# Stirling Stuff

Volume 62, No. 6

June 2018

## Pastor's Letter

As I sit and write this, I am watching a thunderstorm approaching our area after a day of mid-eighty temperatures. We have had a lot of rain and cold over the past week and, finally, yesterday we saw the sun and had spring-like temperatures. Now I hear we are entering another cold and rainy spell. In a book of poetry and prayers by Cathy Cummings Chisholm, entitled *Landscapes of the Heart*, she has a picture of a windmill (the kind found on farms that is used to pump water to the fields and homes). The poem that goes with the windmill picture reads as follows:



*Spinning metal blades  
and sharp-edged leaves  
whisper to each other  
in the summer breeze.  
Thirsty corn insistently  
demands to be watered.  
Windmills answer  
to produce life-giving water,  
propelled by the breath of life.*

This past Sunday we celebrated Pentecost, which I talked about last month in my letter. I'm reminded of trying to keep yards, gardens, flowerboxes, and potted plants watered so that they continue to thrive in the summer heat. What about our human spirits? What waters our spirits so that we may continue to thrive amidst the parched dryness of the droughts in our lives? Where are the windmills that bring spiritual water to our lives?

I believe that worship and reading scripture and quietly reflecting on them is where we find our spiritual windmills. This is especially important to remember during the summer when we find it easy to set church and our spiritual lives aside. Many people have a list of books they hope to read over the summer. I suggest that you have a book or two from the Bible on that list. Read a chapter and reflect on what it says to you. This is a way to water our Spirits over the summer and in the dry times of our lives.

See you in Church!

*Tom*



The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling  
Feeding Those Who Hunger

## Worship Services and Scripture Passages for June

### June 3, 2018

### Service in Stirling

- Pentecost 2B, Ordinary 9B
- Sacrament of Holy Communion
- Non-Perishable Food Collection
- Church Picnic
  - 1 Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18;
  - 2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Mark 2:23-3:6
  - Spiritual Macular Degeneration*

### June 10, 2018

- Pentecost 3B, Ordinary 10B
- Christian Education Recognition
  - 1 Samuel 8:4-11, 16-20; Psalm 138;
  - 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35
  - Who Is The Insane One?*

---

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.



### June 17, 2018

- Pentecost 4B, Ordinary 11B
- Father's Day
- Music Sunday
- Travnicek Memorial Ringers
  - 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Psalm 20;
  - 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17; Mark 4:26-34
  - Fatherhood In Music*

### June 24, 2018

- Pentecost 5B, Ordinary 12B
  - 1 Samuel 17:1a-4:11, 19-23, 32-49;
  - Psalm 9:9-20;
  - 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41
  - Surviving Storms*

---

**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](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., June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9:00 a.m.**, at the Stirling House Diner.  
We talk about whatever is on your mind. Come join the fellowship and conversation.



### Music Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup>

On Sunday, on **June 17<sup>th</sup>**, we will be celebrating **Music Sunday and Father's Day**. The theme for Music Sunday this year is songs and hymns that talk about fathers. The Travnicek Memorial Ringers will also be playing that morning. They will perform When We Are Living, which they played during the joint-church hand bell concert in May.

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

Our final concert of the 2017-18 season was held on Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. The performance by the Mosaic Flute Duo of Natasha Loomis & Mitzy Nonaka was enjoyed by everyone. Special thanks to Jenny & Ed Chang for setting up a lovely reception for our guests that day and on previous days during the season.

Anyone who would like to help in some way with the 2018-19 concert series, please contact Rev. Peters, Howard Kupferman, or Debra Sprague.

**Sexual Misconduct Policy**

If you have not read the Church's Sexual Misconduct Policy and/or signed a form stating that you have read it in the past two years, or if you have never had a limited background check done for the church, please speak to Rev. Peters or Ed Gerecht about getting it done. It is difficult to think that churches need to do this, but we've all heard stories about children being abused and adults being sexually harassed in churches. Because they want to believe the best about people, churches are easy targets for abusers and harassers. It is important that you help us out with completing this.



To facilitate this process, the policy, sign-off statements, and background check request form will be available during fellowship hour for a few Sundays. Only those who have never had a background check done for our church need to complete the request form. The background check will be done through the Presbytery of Newton. There will be someone available to answer any questions you may have regarding the policy or the process. We need as many people as possible to participate even if you are not going to teach or may only be the second person in the child care room.

**General Assembly**

The 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) will be held from June 16<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> in St. Louis, Missouri. The commissioners attending from Newton Presbytery are: Rev. David Harvey, Blairstown; Rev. Amy Lincoln, Long Valley/Highlands; Elder Sherri Guthrie, Morristown; Elder Stuart Ours, Washington; and, Katherine Scott, Young Adult Advisory Delegate, Rockaway. Please keep them in your prayers during this time.

**Summer Offering**

As we enter late spring and early summer, please remember that we still have bills to pay at the church. If you are going away and will miss some Sundays, please keep your offering up-to-date by donating for those Sundays ahead of time or promptly when you return. Our finances are very tight, and summer is traditionally a difficult time for the church financially.



**Annual Fish & Chips Dinner**

Our Annual Argyle's Fish & Chips Dinner, which was originally scheduled for June 9<sup>th</sup> has been postponed until September. As soon as a new date is confirmed with Argyles Fish & Chip Restaurant, everyone will be notified.

**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.**

**Annual Church Picnic, June 3<sup>rd</sup>**

On **June 3<sup>rd</sup>**, we will hold our annual church picnic on the front lawn immediately following the worship service. Our friends from the Meyersville church will be worshipping with us that morning for our first Sunday of the month joint service and will be joining us for the picnic. Please bring a dish to share and something to throw on the grill, and join us for good food and good fellowship. We always have so much fun, especially doing the egg toss.

**CE Recognition Sunday**

During morning worship on Sunday, **June 10<sup>th</sup>**, we will recognize our Christian Education program by thanking our teachers and staff and celebrating with our students for the work they have done during the past school year. Please join us.

**Child Care Room**

Thank you to Janet Parziale for building and installing shelves in the closets in the child care room. The shelves allow for much better use of the space and also make it easier to find and retrieve needed items. Thank you, Janet!

**Fourth Sunday Focus, June 24<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 **June 24<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 June:**

June 3	Lore Pateman	June 17	Debra Sprague
June 10	Tom Parziale	June 24	Ed Gerecht



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, June 3<sup>rd</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.

**Summer Worship Schedule**

Once again, we will be sharing summer worship services with our friends at Meyersville Presbyterian Church. This allows for each of our ministers to have vacation time without having to secure a guest minister.

For the month of **July, we will worship at 9:30 a.m. in Stirling** with Rev. Aspinall leading most of the services.

For the month of **August, we will worship at 9:30 a.m. in Meyersville** with Rev. Peters preaching.

On **Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will worship in Stirling at 9:30 a.m.** with Rev. Aspinall preaching. Meyersville will also host an evening *Graze and Praise* service on Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

There will be a time of refreshments and fellowship following each service.

**Archive Sunday**

The Worship Committee hosted a special Fellowship Hour and Archive Sunday on April 29<sup>th</sup> following morning worship. Books filled with our church's history were displayed for everyone to peruse. Many of those attending shared a special/favorite memory of the church. These remembrances were recorded and will be transcribed for inclusion in the archives. They were all quite special!



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. **Please be sure items are dated and, if possible, the names of church members and/or families are highlighted.** 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.

**Deacons' Corner**

– Carolyn Malfatone

**Mission of the Month**

Our Mission of the Month for June is the **Bridges Outreach Lunch Program**. Our church has supported this important program for many years by providing 40 lunches each month for distribution to the homeless in Newark, Irvington, and New York City. Your donations will be used to purchase items needed to prepare the lunches. Please use the special *Mission of the Month* envelopes found in the pews, or send a check to the church with *Mission of the Month* noted on it. Thank you!

The Deacons thank everyone who donated to the Mission of the Month for May, the Church World Service (CWS) Blanket Project. CWS will be very happy with our support of this special program. If you would still like to donate, it's not too late to do so.

**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 ceramic coffee cups we have in the kitchen. 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.

**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.

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

- Jean Hoffman



Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, June 8<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 Jean. If you'd like to help with this program, please speak to Jean.

**Upcoming dates:** July 13, Aug. 3, Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, and Dec. 7

**Community Food Bank**

- Kai Ihringer



I want to thank everyone who participated in our volunteer session at the Community Food Bank in Hillside on May 19<sup>th</sup>! We were part of a group of approximately 25 people whose task was to assemble boxes containing enough food to feed one senior citizen for a weekend. We were asked to complete at least 250 boxes and ended up assembling 504 boxes. Quite an accomplishment!

Pictured here along with the volunteers from other groups are:

Kai & Katherine Ihringer, Daria Jankura, Grace Nielson, Tom Parziale, and Rev. Peters

Please mark your calendars for our next volunteer session on Sat., November 17<sup>th</sup>.

**\*Editor's Note:** On behalf of the congregation, thank you Kai for your work in coordinating our church's participation in this program for the past several years.

**Family Promise of Morris County**

- Toni Hopcraft

Our church hosted Family Promise at Trinity House on March 28<sup>th</sup>. I would like to acknowledge **All-American Pizza** for the discount they gave us on our delicious specialty pizzas for the evening meal. This Veteran-owned business, located at 258 Main Street in Stirling, is new to our town. In addition to pizza, they offer sandwiches, salads, appetizers, and dinners. If you stop by, please thank them for their generous help in feeding the guests of Family Promise.

## **Buildings & Grounds**

- Tom Parziale

Our thanks to Ed Gerecht and Boy Scout Troop 59 for their continuing work sprucing up the grounds around the church and the manse.



Following the March storms, we had substantial tree damage across the property. As previously mentioned, Paul Wermuth and Israel Sierra removed the debris that was on the ground. A few weeks ago, Action Tree Service cut down the remaining broken branches. In a cost-saving effort, the committee decided to not have the tree service remove the resultant debris. Paul and Israel have volunteered to remove it from the church property.

Thank you for your patience as we continue to work on the appearance of the property. And, thank you also to Paul and Izzy for their hard work on behalf of the church!

## **Congratulations to Our Graduates**

We have several graduates in our church family to celebrate this year, and we congratulate all of them and their proud families:



Yvonne and Art Fletcher had graduations of two granddaughters to celebrate:

Emmy Fletcher (Eric's daughter) graduated from Rutgers University with a Masters in Social Work.

Zoe Zylowski (Lorna's daughter) graduated summa cum laude from Rutgers University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Public Policy and a Minor in Art History.

Lisa Monetti, daughter of Janice and Dale, will graduate from University College of London in July with a Master of Science Degree in Bioarchaeology and Forensic Anthropology. She will be staying there to earn her Doctorate Degree.

Ellen and Bob Eastty's granddaughter, Kayla Eastty (Bill's daughter) graduated from the University of New Haven, College of Business with a degree in Accounting. Kayla will be starting a year of service in AmeriCorps in September.

George Fillapatos (Beth Badilla's son) graduated from Schryer Honors College, Penn State University, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physics and Astrophysics. Starting in July, George will be attending Colorado School of Mines. He has earned a Graduate Fellowship in Applied Physics and will pursue a PhD there for the next 5 years.

Elsie Turqman's grandson, Ian Kenny (Louisa's son), is graduating from Montgomery High School. Ian will be attending Rutgers University-New Brunswick in September.

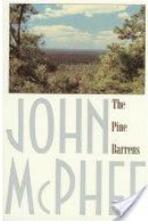
Jan Somers' grandson, Aidan Szewczuk (Denise's son) is graduating from 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Ethel Hoppock Middle School. Aidan will be attending North Hunterdon High School in the fall.

## **Computer Classes at Meyersville Presbyterian Church**

Ruud Zijdel from the Meyersville Church is continuing his **series of computer classes on Saturdays from 9:00-11:00 a.m.** **This free, hands-on training of Windows 10** includes: 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](mailto:ruudz@aol.com).

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

The Book Club is currently reading "The Pine Barrens," by John McPhee. They will meet in the parlor at Meyersville on Tuesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m. to discuss the book. Everyone is welcome to join the group.



*In "Pine Barrens," by discussing everything from growing cranberries to the natural history of fires to the legend of the Jersey Devil and introducing us to a cast of fascinating characters along the way, McPhee accomplishes what only the best writers can--he brings alive an entire world that might otherwise have remained unknown to us. Those who think that New Jersey consists of only highways and chemical plants should find the book especially interesting.*

**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).

**Boy Scout Troop 59****- Ed Gerecht**

Prior to our meeting on Wed., May 16<sup>th</sup>, the troop gathered at the Elm Street Cemetery and placed flags on the graves of all veterans.



We are continuing to work around the church and manse helping to maintain the property.

On Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, the Troop held the Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony for Joseph Wagner. On Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, we will be holding an Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony for Matteo Baeyens.

**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.

### 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 Summer issue of Stirling Stuff to:**  
[jsomers17@hotmail.com](mailto:jsomers17@hotmail.com)  
by **June 21<sup>st</sup>**. Thank you!

**Stirling Stuff** is the newsletter of

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling

158 Central Avenue  
Stirling, NJ 07980

Editor: Jan Somers

The Rev. Dr. Thomas T. Peters, Pastor  
[pastor@fpcstirling.org](mailto:pastor@fpcstirling.org)  
Paulette Irlander, Office Manager  
[Secretary@fpcstirling.org](mailto:Secretary@fpcstirling.org)  
Church Office: 908-647-1033  
Website: [www.fpcstirling.org](http://www.fpcstirling.org)

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.

