



Stirling Stuff

Volume 62, No. 9

October 2018

Pastor's Letter

2017-2018 has been the year of the immigrant. News about immigration has riled up both sides of the political debate about how should we, as a country, respond to the desire of people to enter our country for a variety of reasons: asylum, to earn more money, to feel safe. To people in many countries, the U.S. is a land of *milk and honey*. Of course we know that is not always the case, but we are not living in the same conditions as many of those who are trying to come here. I believe that if we were in their shoes, we would be trying to come as well.



You may ask why I bring this up. October is a month that asks us to reflect on the other person or people. We begin the month with World Communion Sunday on October 7th. This is a service that reminds us that we live on this ball we call earth with a lot of different people -- people who deserve life no more and no less than we do. We are mindful that God loves each and every human being, no matter who they worship, the color of their skin, the language they speak, the country where they live, or any other human construct humanity has devised to build walls. Our peace and security is dependent on the peace and security the other people on earth feel in their lives.

October is a month where each Sunday has a designation that challenges us to look out and see the other person. Sunday the 7th, besides being World Communion is also Domestic Violence Sunday. Tuesday the 16th is World Food Day, when we are to reflect on how many in the world do not experience food security. Sunday the 21st is the day of our annual Crop Walk in New Providence to raise awareness and money for feeding those who are hungry in the world. The 21st is also Children's Sabbath, when we reflect on the plight of children around the world. We end the month on Sunday the 28th, as we celebrate Reformation Sunday, a day when we recognize that we were and are continuing to be reformed as we further understand God's working in the world. Also on the 28th, the Christian Education Committee will be hosting a brunch program as we continue our discussion on White Privilege. Please see the article concerning that in this newsletter.



It is a busy month, and we hope you will plan to be a part of the worship and programs we will be offering.

See you in Church!

Tom

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for October

October 7, 2018

- Pentecost 20B
- World Communion Sunday
- Sacrament of Holy Communion

Meyersville Church will worship with us in Stirling

Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Psalm 26;
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16
Does God Put Us To The Test?

October 14, 2018

- Pentecost 21B
Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Psalm 22:1-15;
Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31
What Would You Be Willing To Give Up?

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.



October 21, 2018

- Pentecost 22B
- Travnicek Memorial Ringers will be playing
- CROP Walk

Job 38:1-7; Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c;
Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45
Living With Mystery

October 28, 2018

- Pentecost 23B
- Reformation Sunday
- Congregational Election Meeting
Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Psalm 34:1-8;
Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52
Should We Say Anything?

**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 **Saturday, October 8th, 9:00 a.m.**, at the Stirling House Diner. We talk about whatever is on your mind. Come join the fellowship and conversation.



Travnicek Memorial Ringers

Our handbell choir will be playing on **Sunday, October 21st**, during morning worship.

Due to non-handbell-related injuries, we are in need of 2 bell ringers. If you can help us out, it would be gratefully appreciated. We meet on Monday nights from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. Please talk to Rev. Peters if you are interested and/or would like more information. **We really need you!**



Fish And Chips Dinner



I want to say a big thank you to all who participated in our 5th Annual Argyle Fish and Chips Dinner. It is a big deal for our church to do this dinner. It offers not only food to the community, but also fellowship, and we have fun doing it! I want to thank the members of the organizing committee, who began their work in early July: Tom and Janet Parziale, Ed Gerecht, Ed Chang, Carolyn Malfatone, Paul Wermuth, Israel Sierra, Lynn Blakeslee, Kai Ihringer, and Debra Sprague. (See page 10 for pictures from the dinner.)

The Concert Series in Stirling

Our 2018-19 concert series will begin on **Sunday, October 14th, at 2:00 p.m.**, when we welcome pianist Alessandra Tiraterra. Ms. Tiraterra was born and raised in Rome, Italy, and has performed around the world, starting at age fourteen. She is the recipient of numerous prizes and recognitions, and is also a teacher in the college and pre-college divisions.



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.

If you would like to help with the concert series, please contact Rev. Peters, Howard Kupferman, or Debra Sprague.

New Providence Area CROP Hunger Walk

- Debra Sprague



Walk. Give. Change the world.

On Sunday, October 21st, members and friends of our church will once again be walking to fight hunger. The 3-mile walk takes place in New Providence and not only raises money to help Church World Service fight hunger around the world, it also raises awareness of hunger as we walk along the streets of New Providence holding CROP signs.

The walk will begin and end at the **United Methodist Church, 1441 Springfield Avenue, New Providence**, and we ask people to sponsor us to raise money for local and far-reaching hunger programs. One-quarter of the funds raised goes to a local entity, generally St. John's Soup Kitchen in Newark, which serves the local homeless population.

If you plan to walk, please see Rev. Peters or Debra for a donation envelope. **We encourage everyone to visit our team's home page, where walkers can sign up to walk, and everyone can donate to the team:** <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/newprovidencenj/FirstPresStirling>

Send this link to friends and family, and invite them to support us...and invite them to walk with us, too!

- **Walkers are asked to bring a jar of peanut butter on the day of the Walk. These go to the Starfish Food Pantry.**
- **Arrive 1:00-1:15 to check in for the 1:30 Walk.**

For more information about CROP Walks, visit: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/Static/About-Us>

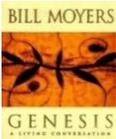
Annual Congregational Election Meeting

The Session has called for a meeting of the congregation to be held on **Sunday, October 28th**, immediately following worship. The purpose of this meeting is to elect church officers for terms beginning in February 2019. If you are asked to serve, please prayerfully consider serving. This year, both the Session and the Deacons each have only 7 of their 9 slots filled. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting.



Christian Education Committee

- Lore Pateman



Adult Bible Study

- Rev. Peters

Our **Bible Study** of the book *Genesis: A Living Conversation*, by Bill Moyers, continues on **Thursday mornings from 10:30 a.m. – noon** in the meeting room. The coffee pots are on and we invite you to join us.

Brunch Program on White Privilege - Continuing Discussion on White Privilege



On **Sunday, October 28th**, following morning worship and the congregational election meeting, the C.E. Committee will host a brunch program. This program will be a continuing discussion started last year on *White Privilege*. This topic continues to be important not just for minorities, but for white people, as well. We will discuss how, if we are to have a truly integrated society with justice for all, it can't just be the minorities calling for it. White people have to be speaking up as well. **We hope you will join us for this very important program.** We ask that you bring a main dish, salad, baked item, or dessert. The sign-up sheet is posted in Pollard Hall.

Fourth Sunday Focus, October 28th

- 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 **October 28th 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've never participated or haven't attended for a while, why not join us on the 28th; we always have lively discussions on a wide variety of topics. **If you have a topic you'd like to discuss, contact Tom Parziale.**



Worship Committee

- Janet Parziale

Non-Perishable Food Collection, October 7th

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.





On October 7th, we will celebrate World Communion Sunday. The congregation of the Meyersville Presbyterian Church will join us in Stirling for this service.

In 1936, the first Sunday in October was celebrated as World Communion Sunday in Presbyterian churches in the United States and overseas. After a few years, the idea spread beyond the Presbyterian Church.

We will symbolize this day by using different breads for communion, and members of both congregations will be reading scripture passages in their native language. We hope you will join us for this special service.

Reformation Sunday, October 28th

October 28th is Reformation Sunday, the day when Presbyterians celebrate the tradition that grounds their faith. It is always the last Sunday in October, marking the occasion in 1517 when Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany. Martin Luther contributed to major theological reform by translating the Bible into vernacular German, which allowed people to hear and read the gospel of Jesus Christ in their own language. Plan to join us for this important day in our Church's history.



All Saints Sunday, November 4th, in Meyersville

On November 4th, 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.

Please complete the form below, and place it in the offering plate during morning worship, or send it to the church office by Monday, October 29th. Forms will also be available in the Church bulletins.

✂ ----- ✂ ----- ✂ ----- ✂ ----- ✂ -----

All Saints' Sunday, Nov. 4th

Please list anyone special you have lost during the past year and would like to have remembered during the service:

Your Name: _____

Person's Name: _____

Relationship to You: _____



Please print clearly

Please place this form in the offering plate or send it to the church office by October 29th. Thank you.

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

For October, our **Mission of the Month will be the CROP Walk**. Members and friends of our congregation will be participating in the three mile walk in New Providence. You can participate by joining in the walk, sponsoring a walker from our church, or donating to CROP using the special Mission of the Month offering envelopes in the pew racks.



Please see the related article on page 3 of this newsletter for more details about the CROP Walk.

Fellowship Hour

Coffee Hour
&
Fellowship

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 after 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 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 pew in an envelope marked "Fellowship Hour."

What is involved in hosting one? The coffee, tea bags, 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 popcorn are some examples) to set out on the table. 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 everyone.

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.

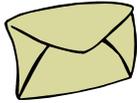
Visiting Nurse

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.

**Buildings & Grounds****- Tom Parziale**

We've had a lot of activity over the past few months. In addition to ongoing work, some of the major projects include:

- ✓ Roof Repairs over the interior entrance to the sanctuary were completed in July by Capitol Roofing.
- ✓ Pollard Hall window upgrades, funded by the Deacons, involved the installation of new shades over the summer. In addition, Frank Dill was contracted to repair the window cord balances on seven windows in Pollard Hall.
- ✓ In mid-September, the stoop that allows entry directly into Pollard Hall was repaired by Charlie Mazzucco Masonry.

The committee would like to recognize the "above and beyond" work done by the following individuals.

- ✓ Grounds clean up and mulching - Paul Wermuth and Israel Sierra
- ✓ Bush trimming and clean up - Lore and Rich Pateman, Debra Sprague and John
- ✓ Repairs and painting of the shed by the garbage bin - Edward Chang

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

Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, Oct. 5th, 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 or Yvonne. If you'd like to help with this program, please speak to Jean or Yvonne.

Upcoming dates: Nov. 2, Dec. 7

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.

World Food Day, October 16th

World Food Day is a day of action dedicated to tackling global hunger. Held annually on October 16th, people from around the world come together to declare their commitment to eradicate worldwide hunger from our lifetime. The focus of the day is that food is a basic and fundamental human right. Yet, in a world of billions, 805 million people worldwide live with chronic hunger, 60% women; and, almost five million children under the age of 5 die of malnutrition-related causes every day. Join the global movement to end hunger. Be a part of the solution in your community and around the world because, when it comes to hunger, the only acceptable number is **zero**. Supporting the upcoming CROP Walk is a good way to start.



Church Archives

- Jan Somers



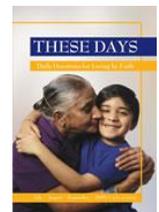
Please continue to forward news clippings, bulletins, programs, pictures, or other memorabilia regarding any member of our church family so our archives can be kept up-to-date. **Please be sure items are dated and, if possible, the names of church members and/or families are highlighted.** There is a **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.

Church Website & Facebook Page

To keep up-to-date with what's happening at our Church, make it a point to check in regularly on the Church website, www.fpcstirling.org, and Facebook page, https://www.facebook.com/fpcStirling/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel. They are good sources for church news, the Church calendar, Stirling Stuff, upcoming events/programs, Pastor's sermons, Scripture readings, Church history, and more.

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.

Church Narthex Dedication

During morning worship on Sunday, September 16th, the Church Narthex was dedicated in memory of Rene' Phelan and Ellen and Robert Eastty. The Narthex was renovated with monies received in the memorial fund in memory of these three pillars of the church. A special plaque (pictured here) is now hanging in the narthex.



Rev. Peters spoke about these three special people:

A narthex is kind of a welcoming room. It is the room people first see when they come to a church for the first time. It is the place where they are greeted and made to feel welcomed. That is so much what Rene', Ellen, and Bob did as members of this church. They wanted people to feel comfortable in their/our church. They were wonderful, compassionate people who just made people feel good.

Attending this special service:

Rene's husband, Chuck; daughter, Donna; granddaughter, Kristin; and, Ellen and Bob's daughter, Sheryl.



A special cake was prepared by Janet Parziale.

Sacrament of Baptism

On Sunday, September 23rd, the Sacrament of Baptism was celebrated for Ethan Russell Alongi, son of Tony and Sharon Alongi, and grandson of Bill and Toni Hopcraft and Norma Hopcraft. Ethan was also celebrating his 1st birthday (Sept. 22nd) on this special day.

Pictured here are: Elder (and grandfather) Bill Hopcraft; Rev. Peters; Tony, Sharon, and Ethan; and sponsors, Monica Alongi and Will Hopcraft.



Fish And Chips Dinner, September 22nd

Here are some pictures from the day, including the hard-working chefs, Bagpiper Dave Palladino, community friends enjoying some fellowship, group of volunteers, church members and friends working together to make the event a success, in many ways:



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.



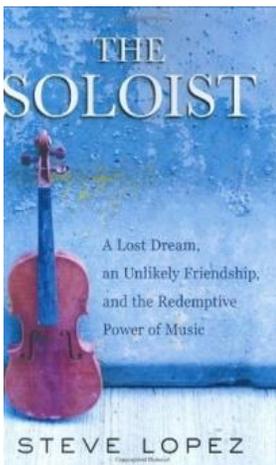
You will not be sitting or lying on the floor, so just bring yourself in comfortable clothes, and invite friends along. The classes are appropriate for all, the flexible as well as the tight. Injuries will be accommodated. Yoga is relaxing, as well as good for general health; so, come give it a try.

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 a non-fiction selection, **“The Soloist: A Lost Dream, an Unlikely Friendship, and the Redemptive Power of Music”** by Steve Lopez. **They will meet in the parlor at Meyersville on Tuesday, October 23rd, 7:30 p.m. to discuss the book.** Everyone is welcome to join the group.



The unlikely friendship between Steve Lopez, a Los Angeles Times columnist, and Nathaniel Ayers, a homeless musician, has inspired newspaper columns, a book, and a movie.

When Lopez met him, Ayers was a homeless musician on Skid Row in Los Angeles. Lopez learned Ayers had been a promising violinist, and that he had left the prestigious music program at the Juilliard School because of his struggle with mental illness.

Lopez chronicled Ayers' struggle in several columns in the Los Angeles Times. These columns inspired readers to send instruments to Ayers through Lopez. The friendship that Lopez formed with Ayers eventually helped the musician get off the street, settle into an apartment, and find treatment for his schizophrenia.

Lopez says his friendship with Ayers has "always been a two-way street, it's not just me doing for him." The writer explains that the musician re-ignited his passion for journalism and gave him a sense of well-being: "You know, there's this humility, there's this good feeling I have from giving something," Lopez says.

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
- ✓ Questions? Contact Debra Sprague

Please e-mail submissions for the November issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by **October 18th**. Thank you!

Stirling Stuff is the newsletter of

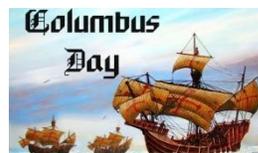
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Why not invite a friend to church?



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.

Reformation Sunday

