



Stirling Stuff

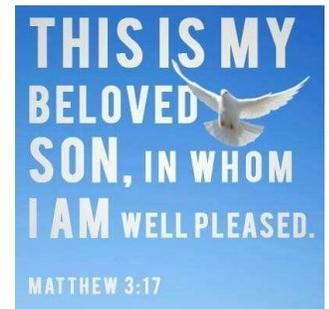
Volume 63, No. 2

February 2019

Pastor's Letter

On January 17th, the American poet Mary Oliver died. In her last book of poems, *Felicity*, she has a poem entitled, *I Wake Close To Morning*:

*Why do people keep asking to see
God's identity papers
when darkness opening into morning
is more than enough?
Certainly any god might turn away in disgust.
Think of Sheba approaching
the kingdom of Solomon.
Do you think she had to ask,
"Is this the place?"*



I thought of this poem as I thought of our season of Epiphany, which is bracketed with the words, *This is my Son*. It is a season of revelation. We continue the season of Epiphany through the month of February. It is a reminder that God is revealed to us in many different ways every day of our lives. It might be in the beauty of the sunrise or the sunset. The big super blood moon has been spectacular in the past few days.

There are events and people who touch our lives in powerful ways. We have to have eyes and ears of faith to see and hear them. They might be explainable, or not; but, they touch us with the presence of God. God's creative greatness and goodness is revealed to us and touches us every day. This February, take some time to look for revelations of God. I would even suggest that you keep a journal of "*God Sightings*," to help you remember them in the days, months, and years to come.

See you in church!

Tom



The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for February

February 3, 2019

Service in Meyersville

- *Fourth Sunday of Epiphany*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection – Fruit Cocktail*
Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6;
1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30
Rev. Barbara Aspinall preaching

February 10, 2019

- *Fifth Sunday of Epiphany*
Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 138;
1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11
Why Is It So Scary?

*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 17, 2019

- *Sixth Sunday of Epiphany*
Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1;
1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26
Does He Really Mean Woe?

February 24, 2019

- *Seventh Sunday of Epiphany*
Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40;
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38
What Would We Do?

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, February 2nd, 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 2019 Per Capita amount we are being assessed **per member is \$37**. This money enables the Presbyterian Church (USA) and its Councils (Presbytery and Synod) to do their work. Please help out by paying the \$37 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.

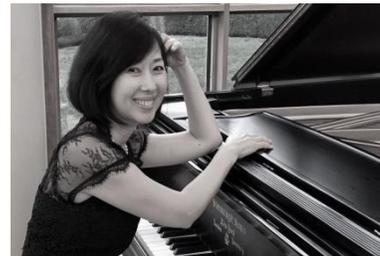
Family Promise of Morris County

Thank you to everyone who signed up to help with our first 2019 Family Promise hosting dates, Feb. 1-2, at Stirling House. Your time and assistance is very much appreciated by all the guests we served. Our next hosting date is **Tuesday, March 19th**. Please watch for the sign-up sheet in Pollard Hall.



The Concert Series in Stirling

Our concert series continues on February 10th when we will welcome pianist Yejin Han. Ms. Han studied at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and holds a Master of Music in piano performance from Louisiana State University. She has been featured as a soloist with several orchestras and has performed as a soloist and as part of several chamber music groups.



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.



Music Playathon

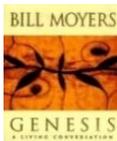
On **Sunday, February 24th**, we will host our second annual Music Playathon. Students of Danette Whelan and other area music teachers will play. This helps them get used to performing in front an audience. The first group of performers is scheduled to **begin at 2:00 p.m.**

Christian Education Committee

- Lore Pateman

Adult Bible Study

- Rev. Peters



We are continuing our Bible Study on Thursday mornings from 10:30 AM to 12 Noon. We are slowly making our way through the book of Genesis using the book, *Genesis*, by Bill Moyers. It is a study that takes us into many different discussions, which we enjoy. We'd love to have you join us. The coffee pot is always on!

Fourth Sunday Focus, February 24th

- 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. 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, please join us on the 24th; 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

Liturgists for February: Feb. 3 Meyersville Feb. 17 Sue Gerecht
Feb. 10 Ed Gerecht Feb. 24 Tom 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 (Fruit Cocktail), February 3rd - 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 February 3rd, please consider bringing this item (preferably the kind in juice and not syrup) to donate when we are there. Thank you.**



Epiphany Sunday

On January 6th, we celebrated Epiphany Sunday, also called *Three Kings Days*. Shown here is the **Atmospheric Table** assembled by Rev. Peters and the Worship Committee representing Christmas Eve and Epiphany.

Pulpit Guest

We welcomed Alison Peters as our guest preacher on January 27th. Alison is halfway through her seminary training, and it was wonderful to see and hear this young woman who we have watched grow up in our church. If you missed the service, you can listen to her sermon on the church website, www.fpcstirling.org.

Looking Ahead

The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6th. Please watch for more information in the March issue of Stirling Stuff, and plan to join our Lenten journey.



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

Our **Mission of the Month for February** is **Souper Bowl of Caring**. Members of the Christian Education program will be taking up a collection at the end of our worship service on Sunday, February 10th. Last year we collected \$333 for this worthy program. If you miss donating on the 10th, please use the special "Mission of the Month" offering envelopes in the pew racks on any Sunday during February. This year your donation will be shared equally between Family Promise of Morris County and the Market Street Mission in Morristown. Thank you very much for your contribution!

**Bridges Outreach Program - Information Potluck Brunch**

On **Sunday, February 17th**, the Deacons will be sponsoring a potluck brunch in Pollard Hall following morning worship with a presentation on the **Bridges Outreach Program**. Mr. Richard Uniacke, Executive Director of the Bridges Outreach Program in Summit, will discuss the various services this organization provides to our homeless neighbors throughout the area.

Many of us are familiar with the Brown Bag Lunch program our church has been participating in for many years. Once a month, several ladies from our congregation meet to prepare 40 brown bag lunches which are taken to the Summit office of Bridges. These lunches and many others are then distributed to the homeless in Newark, Irvington, Summit, and New York City. This is just one of their programs.

Mr. Uniacke is looking forward to meeting our congregation and sharing more of what Bridges Outreach does. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this very special presentation. A sign-up sheet will be posted in Pollard Hall for you to note that you are attending and what special dish you can provide to share. Hope to see you there!

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 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."



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.

The 2019 sign-up sheets are posted in Pollard Hall; please take a look at the dates and sign up for a Sunday.

Visiting Nurse

Joyce Koenig is a Visiting Nurse for members of our church. She can make visitations on her own and with Rev. Peters and is also available to answer your health-related questions.

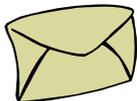


Church Flowers

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 first 2019 commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, March 8th, 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: April 5th and May 3rd

Due to the possibility of inclement weather, we will not be meeting to prepare lunches in January and February.

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.



Church Website & Facebook Page

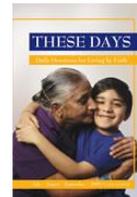
To keep up-to-date with what's happening at our Church, make it a point to check in regularly on the Church website, www.fpcstirling.org, and Facebook page, https://www.facebook.com/fpcStirling/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel. They are good sources for church news, the Church calendar, Stirling Stuff, upcoming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

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.

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.”



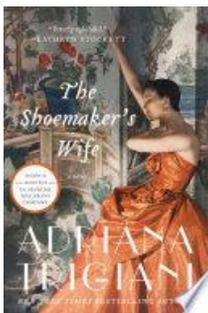
Our Church has a subscription for copies of this devotional booklet; they are available in the Church narthex.

Meyersville Presbyterian Church News**Free Gentle Yoga Class Resumes**

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 Book Club**- Jan Somers**

Due to the inclement weather on Jan. 29th, our meeting has been rescheduled to **Tuesday, Feb. 5th, 7:30 p.m., in the church parlor** to discuss Barbara Kingsolver's novel, *Prodigal Summer*. At that time, the next selection, *The Shoemaker's Wife*, a novel by Adriana Trigiani, will be distributed.

Inspired by the lives of her own grandparents, who came to America from northern Italy in the early 20th century, it is an old-fashioned, romantic tale of two star-tangled lovers. Beginning in the Italian Alps, the story travels by various routes to New York's Little Italy, a Hoboken factory, backstage at the Metropolitan Opera, Minnesota's Iron Range, and the trenches of France. A love story, yes, but also a paean to artisanal work, food, friendship, and family.

The next meeting date will be announced in the March issue. Copies of the book are available from Rev. Aspinall or Jan Somers. Everyone is welcome to join the group.

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 March issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by **February 21st**. Thank you!

Stirling Stuff is the newsletter of

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling

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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.

