



Stirling Stuff

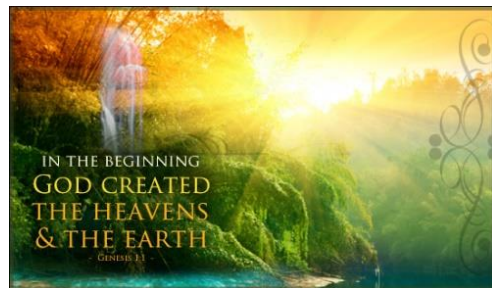
Volume 63, No. 6

June 2019

Pastor's Letter

Recently, the following headline came out from the Environmental Defense Fund:

Human activity puts 1 million species of plants and animals at risk of extinction, a startling report from the United Nations showed recently.



Such a sobering warning should cause us to pause in our tracks and consider what that would mean. It would create huge holes in the food chain of the earth. Even if people are not sure this is true, we have to wonder, "if we wait to see if it is true and it is, then will it be too late to do anything about it?"

Today, as I write this, we have just had a major rain storm come through. It is from the weather system that caused approximately 80 tornadoes and took the lives of some people in the Midwest. Maybe it is not due to climate change; but, if we wait to be sure, if and when we find that it is, it will be too late to do anything about it, and the world's coastlines will dramatically change.

Some will say this is not a religious issue, but I beg to differ. It is a religious issue because the Bible calls us to be good stewards of ALL the resources entrusted to us. The earth and the climate are a part of those resources. We must start doing a better job, or we may hand a catastrophe off to future generations-- a catastrophe from which they will not be able to recover.

How can we even begin to deal with this? Is it not too big for us? We need to change our thinking. There is a Navajo Chant that teaches us where we need to begin:



*The mountains, I become part of it. . .
The herbs, the fir tree, I become part of it.
The morning mists, the clouds, the gathering waters,
I become part of it.
The wilderness, the dew drops, the pollen. . .
I become part of it. ¹*

We need to begin to see ourselves as a part of the world around us. We are not apart from the earth, from the life of other people, animals, and plants. If they suffer, we suffer. We grow from being firmly rooted in and with the earth. Until we see it all as sacred -- none of it is sacred. May God help us find our sacred connection with everything in the Earth.

See you in church!

Tom

1. *Earth Prayers From Around the World*, Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon, eds. (Harper, San Francisco) 1991.

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for June

June 2, 2019**Service in Meyersville**

- *Easter 7C*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection – Fruit Cocktail*
Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97;
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26
Rev. Barbara Aspinall preaching

June 9, 2019**Wear Red**

- *Day of Pentecost*
- *Christian Education Recognition, Church Picnic*
- *Travnicek Memorial Ringers*
Acts 21:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b;
Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17, 25-27
Breaking the Locks of Fear

*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 16, 2019**

- *Trinity Sunday*
- *Father's Day*
Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8;
Romans 8:1-5; John 16:12-15
Celebrating the Delight of Wisdom

June 23, 2019

- *Pentecost 2C*
- *Music Sunday*
1 Kings 19:1-15a; Psalms 42 & 43;
Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39
What's In A Name?

June 30, 2019

- *Pentecost 3C*
2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20;
Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62
Has Tinkerbell Died For You?

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

Our first Saturday of the month Coffee Klatch will be held on **Saturday, June 1st**, at the **Stirling House Diner**. We will gather at 9:00 a.m. for fellowship and food. The conversation will be about whatever you want it to be about.



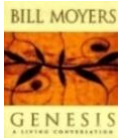
Sixth Annual Fish & Chips Dinner

Our Sixth Annual Argyles Fish & Chips dinner is scheduled for Saturday, June 1st. Thank you to everyone who helped with this important church fundraiser and community event. Please watch for follow-up details in the summer issue of Stirling Stuff.



Travnicek Memorial Ringers

On **Sunday, June 9th**, the Travnicek Memorial Ringers will be playing, "Holy Manna," during morning worship. Please plan to join us to hear their beautiful music.

**Christian Education Committee****- Lore Pateman****Adult Bible Study****- Rev. Peters**

We are continuing our Bible Study of the book of Genesis using, *Genesis*, by Bill Moyers on Thursday mornings from 10:30 AM to 12 noon. 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!

Christian Education Recognition Sunday

During morning worship on **Sunday, June 9th**, we will recognize our Christian Education program by thanking our teachers and staff for the work they have done during the past school year. Please join us to honor them.

**Annual Church Picnic**

Also on **June 9th**, we will hold our Annual Church Picnic on the front lawn immediately following morning worship. 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.

Fourth Sunday Focus, June 23rd**- 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 23rd; we always have lively discussions on a wide range of topics. If you have a topic you'd like to discuss, contact Tom Parziale.

**Worship Committee****- Janet Parziale****Liturgists for June:**

June 2:	Meyersville	June 23:	Katherine Ihringer
June 9:	Tom Parziale	June 30:	Sue Gerech
June 16:	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 (Fruit Cocktail), June 2nd - 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 June 2nd, please consider bringing this item (preferably the kind in juice and not syrup) to donate when we are there.** Thank you.



Pentecost Sunday

We will celebrate **Pentecost Sunday on June 9th**. Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus. The church will be decorated in symbols of Pentecost, and everyone is encouraged to **wear red to church that day.**



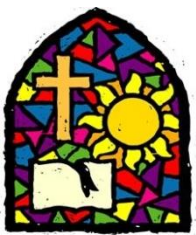
Music Sunday

On **Sunday, June 23rd**, we will celebrate **Music Sunday**. Our theme this year is, "**Peace.**" Plan to join us for this special service highlighting songs and hymns that speak about peace.

Mother's Day Violin Solo

On Mother's Day, May 12th, we enjoyed a special violin solo during morning worship. Paige Szewczuk, Jan Somers' granddaughter, played "Simple Gifts," a Shaker folk song. Go to the church website or click on the following link to see Paige's performance:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-Zgep_wDXWZFO_JVInCUvhUE4yqTXUIN/view



**Worship
Schedule
for the
Summer**

Looking Ahead: Summer Worship Schedule

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

Our **Summer Worship** schedule **begins on July 7th and continues through September 1st**, Labor Day weekend, with worship **starting at 9:30 a.m.** For the month of July, we will worship in Stirling. We will worship in Meyersville during the month of August and on September 1st we will be back in Stirling. We hope to see you when you are not traveling.

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

The Deacons are once again working with the Church World Service (CWS) and their **"Blanket Month Appeal" for our June Mission of the Month**. In 2018, CWS distributed thousands of woolen blankets throughout the world, and they are hoping to do the same this year. The blankets, which **cost \$10 each**, have been used in many ways – to help families who have been driven from their homes due to hurricanes, tornados, 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.



A sample blanket will be available for you to see during Fellowship Hour. We will be collecting \$10 per blanket during the entire month of June. You may use the special envelopes in the pews to enclose your gift; remember to include your name and/or envelope number if you would like your donation to be recorded. We hope you will support this worthy endeavor.

Fellowship Hour

Fellowship Hour is a very special time of fellowship following each weekly worship service. It is a wonderful time to share stories and catch up with each other after our busy 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 plate in an envelope marked "Fellowship Hour."

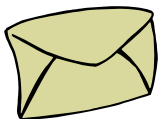
During summer, the Fellowship Hour is much more casual. You can simply provide iced tea/lemonade, juice, water, and some goodies (cookies, fruit, pretzels, popcorn, etc.). They are fun to do and thoroughly appreciated by everyone.

**Need A Ride to Church?**

If you ever find that you need a ride to church, either to Stirling or Meyersville, please feel free to call Janet Parziale (908-647-2212), another deacon, or the church office (908-647-1033). We would be happy to make arrangements to pick you up! We never want the lack of transportation to keep you from joining us for worship.

**Visiting Nurse**

Joyce Koenig is our congregation's Visiting Nurse. She makes visitations on her own and with Rev. Peters and is always available to answer your health-related questions. Thank you, Joyce!

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.**

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.



Water Available During Worship

There is always 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 2019 commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, June 7th, 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: July 5, Aug. 2, Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, and Dec. 6

Following are excerpts from a letter Jean Hoffman recently received from Bridges Outreach:

Bridges greets you with thanks for all that you have done to help us serve our friends on the streets. However, we must address the drastic drop-off in volunteer sign-ups for the Food Runs for the summer months. This will indeed present challenges for Bridges to deliver on the promise.....the promise that we will deliver food and beverage to a particular place on a particular day at a particular time. Our clients will be waiting for us.

Bridges is reaching out to the many volunteers who, week after week, help us provide. In as much as you help to bring our neighbors on the streets food and cold/hot beverages, soup, clothing, and other basic daily needs, you also help to provide the hope that they so desperately need.

*Please take a moment to look at the **SignUpGenius** Food Run calendar. Perhaps your family, friends, and neighbors will be in town on some dates where there is a need for volunteers to help us load up and get to streets on time. Just as Bridges is grateful for the help you've provided in the past and thankful for your future participation, we appreciate your taking the time to look over the many open volunteer slots.*

Just click on the link here to see what slots are available and when you might help out. For more information or if you have questions, please speak to Jean. Thank you.

[**View Sign Ups**](#)

Community Food Bank

- Kai Ihringer

On Saturday, May 18th, a group of 9 volunteers traveled to the Community Food Bank of NJ in Hillside. We had a busy day inspecting, sorting, and packaging various food and grocery items that had been donated to the food bank. It was hard work but, as always, we enjoyed working together to get it done. I want to thank the following people who made it all happen:



Debbie Ameen
 Katherine & Kai Ihringer
 Daria Jankura
 Bill McCoy
 Roseanne McGraw
 Grace Nielsen
 Tom Parziale
 Tom Peters (not pictured)

Please mark your calendars for the next volunteer date on Sat., November 16th.

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.

**Buildings & Grounds**

- Tom Parziale

Roof Repairs

The Pollard Hall roof construction project was completed on Thursday, May 23rd. The old roof has been removed, and the new roof is in place.

Thank you (Tom Parziale) for steering our church and its users through this difficult project! I hope everyone realizes all that you do to keep our church running smoothly. (And you thought you were retired!)

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. Please speak to Jan or Rev. Peters if you'd like to help keep the archives up-to-date.

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.

Congratulations to Our 2019 Graduates



Steven Pateman, son of Lori & Rich, graduated from the University of Colorado with a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Engineering. Pictured with Steven is his sister, Kim.



Megan Gallagan, daughter of Debra Sprague, graduated from Kean University with a Professional Diploma in School Psychology. Pictured with Megan are grandmother, Barbara Sprague, and sister, Shaylyn.



Katherine Ihringer, daughter of Kai Ihringer and Lisa Wernett, earned a Masters in School Counseling from the College of Saint Elizabeth.





Boy Scout Troop 59

- Ed Gerecht

On **Sunday, June 2nd, at 2:00 p.m.**, Boy Scout Troop 59 will hold a **Court of Honor** in our sanctuary for William Walto, III. Everyone is invited to attend this celebration of William's achievement.

Meyersville Presbyterian Church News

Free Gentle Yoga Class

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 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

The Book Club's current selection is, "**Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress**," a novel by Dai Sijie. The group will meet in the parlor at Meyersville on Tuesday, June 25th, 7:30 p.m. to discuss the book. Everyone is welcome to join the group. Copies of the book are available from Rev. Aspinall.



In 1971 China, in the lingering grip of the cultural revolution, university students Luo and Ma, are sent to a mountain mining village as part of their reeducation duty to purge them of their classical western-oriented education. Amid the backbreaking work and stifling ignorance of the community, the two boys find that music and the presence of the beautiful local young women are the only pleasant things in their miserable life. However, none compare to the young seamstress granddaughter of the local tailor. Stealing a departing student's secret cache of forbidden books of classic western literature, they set about to woo her and teach her things she had never imagined. In doing so, they start a journey that would profoundly change her perspective on her world and teach the boys about the power of literature and their own ability to change their world in truly revolutionary ways.

World Environment Day

Keeping with the theme of the *Pastor's Letter* on page 1 of this newsletter, please note that **World Environment Day is June 5th**. It is a day designated by the United Nations for encouraging worldwide awareness and action to protect our environment. Since it began in 1974, the event has grown to become a global platform for public outreach that is widely celebrated in over 100 countries.



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 Summer issue of Stirling Stuff to:

jsomers17@hotmail.com

by June 20th. 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.

Why not invite a friend to church?

