



Stirling Stuff

Volume 63, No. 10

November 2019

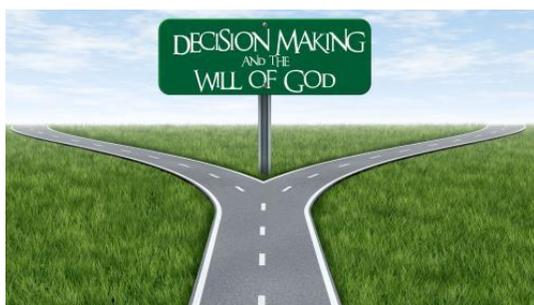
Pastor's Letter

Yesterday, Barbara and I went into the city to take a one-day class at Union Seminary on the Bible passages for Advent. We had planned to take Chloe so she could visit her cousin Jess (Ali's dog) at Ali's apartment. We bought a carrier for Chloe and put her in it several times this past week and even gave her treats to make it feel better; but, she was still not liking it. We made the decision not to traumatize her in a carrier during morning rush hour on the train and subway. We decided it would be better to put her in her kitchen with her brother Jacques, and when Trevor got off work in the mid-afternoon he came over to take them out and play with them. Needless to say, it worked, and we came home to much happier dogs.



I share this with you because I see a parallel between that and our FLHiP process. We are now ready to take all the information we gleaned from the discussions and the timeline event and begin to look at the commonalities we have in our two churches and see what can be built from those. We all have our ideas of where we think it should come out, just like Barbara and I had an idea of taking Chloe to the city; but, our ideas may not be the best, and we may be led to make a different decision that will work a lot better for both churches. We have to be open to the leading of the Spirit, just as Barbara and I were open to Chloe's feelings. Right now we don't know where this process is going to end. But we have faith that it will end in a place or situation that will be better and happier for both churches.

Please know that as we continue our process we will be keeping you informed and nothing can happen without the vote of both churches, unless of course the decision is to continue as we are now. But, that will be shared with you if that is the decision. We continue to ask for your prayers for the committee and both churches as we continue this process.



See you in church!

Tom

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for November

November 3, 2019

- *All Saints Sunday*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Pentecost 21C*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection*
Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4; Psalm 119:137-144;
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10
God's Timing Is Different Than Ours

November 10, 2019

- *Pentecost 22C*
Haggai 1:5b-2:9; Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21;
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38
Rebuilding Churches

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.



Service in Stirling

November 17, 2019

- *Pentecost 23C*
Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 98;
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19
When the News Is Not Good

November 24, 2019

- *Reign of Christ Sunday*
- *Heritage Sunday*
Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 46;
Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43
How's the Fishing?
Zechariah 8:20-23; Matthew 4:12-20

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, November 2nd**, at the **Stirling House Diner**. We will gather at 9:00 AM for fellowship and food. The conversation will be about whatever you want it to be about. Please join us.



Change Your Clocks!

On **Saturday, November 2nd**, be sure to turn your clocks **back one hour** before going to bed, or you will be getting to church an hour early on Sunday morning!

The Concert Series in Stirling

On Sunday, Nov. 10th at 2:00 p.m., there will be a piano concert in our sanctuary by Margarita Rovenskaya. The program will include Leos Janacek's "Into the Mists," Beethoven's "Waldstein Sonata in C major," and Robert Schumann's "Sonata No. 2 in G minor."

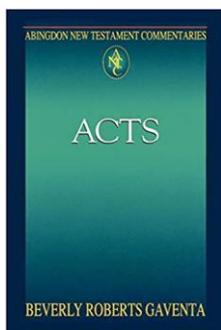


Born in Ukraine, Ms. Rovenskaya began studying the piano at the age of six in Chicago. She is currently earning her Doctorate of Musical Arts at Rutgers University. She is based in New York, where she performs and enjoys teaching as piano faculty at several studios and schools.

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. To help with the concert series, please contact Rev. Peters or Howard Kupferman.

Christian Education Committee

- Lore Pateman



Adult Bible Study

- Rev. Peters

The Bible Study group has begun a study of **Dr. Beverly Gaventa's book, Acts**. We often think of the Book of Acts as just stories about the beginning of the Christian Church. However, it is more about a movement struggling with what it means to believe in God and Jesus and how to be followers of Christ. It was a very intense time for the early Christian movement.

Join us on **Thursdays from 10:30-noon** for coffee, fellowship, and good open discussion.

Fourth Sunday Focus, November 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 range of topics. **If you have a topic you'd like to discuss, contact Tom Parziale.**



Worship Committee

- Janet Parziale

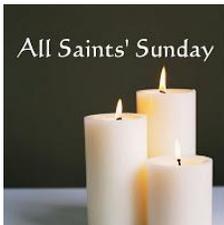
Liturgists for October: Nov. 3: Tom Parziale Nov. 17: Janet Parziale
Nov. 10: Jan Somers Nov. 24: Sue Gerecht



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 - November 3rd

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.



All Saints Sunday, November 3rd

On **November 3rd**, 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 plan to attend this very moving service.

Heritage Sunday, November 24th



This year we will celebrate **Heritage Sunday, on November 24th**, also Reign of Christ Sunday. Normally we celebrate it on the First Sunday of Advent, which this year is December 1st, and we will be at Meyersville on that Sunday. We encourage everyone to **wear or bring a piece of plaid** as we celebrate the “Kirkin’ of the Tartan,” also known as the blessing of the tartan. We will once again welcome our piper, David Paladino, who will play the tune Richard Streeton composed for our church, “Stirling on the Hill.”

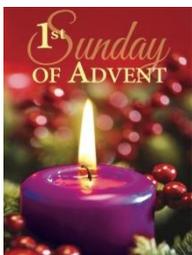


Following the service, the Worship Committee is hosting a special coffee hour and invites everyone to donate Scottish delicacies. Please plan to join us, and invite neighbors and friends to this festive service as we celebrate our church’s Scottish heritage.



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.



Looking Ahead

The Season of Advent

It’s hard to believe, but December 1st is the First Sunday of Advent. We will be worshipping in Meyersville that day. Please watch for information about upcoming Advent events in the December issue of Stirling Stuff.

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

The Mission of the Month for November is the **Turkey/Ham collection and monetary donations for the Market Street Mission in Morristown**. You can make a donation using one of the special Mission of the Month envelopes in the pew racks. There is more information about the Turkey/Ham collection on page 6 of this newsletter. Thank you for your support of this much needed program in our own backyard.

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.**

Fellowship Hour

Fellowship Hour is a very special time following each weekly worship service. It is an opportunity 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."



The coffee, tea, plates, napkins, and cups are all available in the kitchen. You just need to provide milk (usually a quart), juice (or simply water), and some goodies (cookies, fruit, pretzels, popcorn, etc.). 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.

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.

**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!

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 commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, November 1st, 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.

Final 2019 date: Dec. 6

Community Food Bank

- Kai Ihringer

Our next trip to the Community Food Bank of NJ in Hillside is coming up on **Saturday, November 16th**. Please consider joining us in our church's mission to "Feed The Hungry." It is a worthy cause and we enjoy working together to do our part.

Here is the relevant information:

Date: Sat., Nov. 16th

Departure: Meet at 8 a.m. in the church parking lot;
leave for Hillside by 8:15 a.m.

Food Bank Slot: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Return: Back at church parking lot between 11:30 a.m. and Noon



If you plan to attend, please contact me asap so I can provide the Food Bank with an estimate of the size of the group. Also, let me know if you are willing to drive and, if so, how many available seats you have. Thank you.

Thanksgiving Turkey/Ham Donations

Thanksgiving is November 28th. Supermarkets are once again promoting free turkeys/hams for the holiday season. As you sit down to enjoy Thanksgiving with your family, please remember those less fortunate, and consider donating your free item if you won't be needing it. At this time of year, there is great need for food donations, and organizations provide meals to a larger number of people.

The church will be collecting the turkeys (please keep them frozen) and hams on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, November 24th. They will be delivered to the Market Street Mission in Morristown for distribution. Your support of this program is very much appreciated.

New Providence Area CROP Hunger Walk

On Sunday, October 20th, a group from our church joined others and walked in the rain to fight hunger. The 3-mile walk in New Providence raised money to help Church World Service fight hunger around the world and raised awareness of hunger as the group walked along the streets of New Providence holding CROP signs.

Donations are still being accepted on-line at: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/newprovidencenj/FirstPresStirling>.



Pictured: Kai and Katherine Ihringer, Lisa Wernett, Debra Sprague, Rev. Peters

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, or you can just give them to me any Sunday morning. Thank you for your continued support of these programs.



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

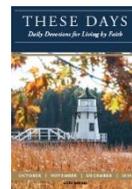
- Jan Somers



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. 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."
Copies are available in the Church narthex.

**Meyersville Presbyterian Church News****Annual Bazaar and Turkey Dinner - November 2nd**

On **Sat., Nov. 2nd**, the Meyersville Church will hold its **Annual Bazaar and Turkey Dinner**, from noon to 8:00 p.m. The bazaar features a Farmer's Market, Baked Goods, Handmade Treasures, and Quilt Show (new this year). Turkey dinner seatings are at 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., and reservations are required. Take-out is also available. For more information or for reservations, contact the church office at 908-647-0390 or secretarympc@aol.com. **Leave a message with your name, phone number, number of tickets you want, and seating time you would like.**

**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, **"Unsheltered,"** a novel by Barbara Kingsolver. The group will meet in the parlor at Meyersville on Tuesday, November 5th, 7:30 p.m. to discuss the book. Everyone is welcome to join the group.

The group's next selection is, **"A Reliable Wife,"** a novel by Robert Goolrick. Copies will be distributed on **November 5th**.

**New Address:**

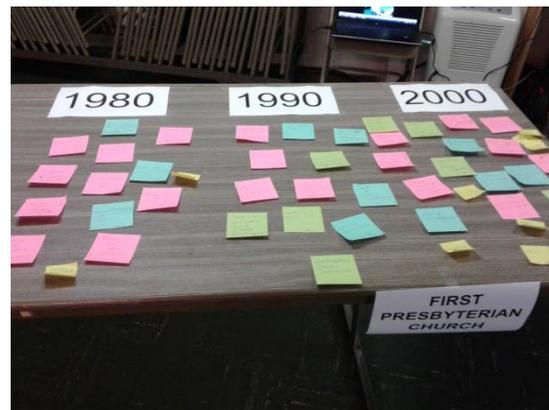
Phyllis Clemson has a new address: Arbor Terrace
361 Speedwell Ave.
Morris Plains, NJ 07950

Why not send her a note to let her know you're thinking of her!

Future of Long Hill Presbyterians (FLHiP)

Following morning worship on Sunday, Sept. 29th, we shared a brunch at Meyersville church and then worked on a timeline project for our respective churches. The program was led by Jeanne Radak, our Presbytery Leader, who guided us in discussing church events from the past. We made collages with sticky notes of *good times* (pink), *sad times* (blue), and *green times* when we experienced the presence of God’s Spirit in our lives or in the life of our church. We used yellow and orange for events shared by both churches. Our FLHiP organizing committee will be meeting to go over what we learned from this experience and then think ahead to our next steps.

Here are pictures from the day:



Don't Forget to VOTE
Tuesday, Nov. 5th



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 1/2 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 December issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by **November 21st**. 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
Paulette Irlander, Office Manager
Secretary@fpcstirling.org
Church Office: 908-647-1033
Website: www.fpcstirling.org

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?



Turn your clocks BACK 1 Hour on Saturday night, Nov. 2nd