



# Stirling Stuff

Volume 63, No. 9

Oct. 2019

## Pastor's Letter

This picture is of the ruins of the Lindisfarne Priory in Northumberland, England. I went to this site on the first day of my trip to Scotland. I saw several other ruins of churches as well, including the Abbys at Jedburgh, Melrose, St. Andrews, and Breuly Priory. I found that the ruins spoke to me of resilience, tenacity, and persistence. These places from the 13<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> centuries have, in many ways, stood the test of time and still speak of a faith that was strong in the midst of adversity and turmoil.



These ruins have something to say to us as we continue our *FLHiP* journey with our sisters and brothers at Meyersville. God is leading us to something, and it could be something very different from what we know now. However, we can trust that God will sustain us in that journey, whatever it may be. We will persevere in some way just as the ruins persevere and still give witness to God and the faith that built these beautiful cathedrals.

When I was on the Island of Iona, I bought a green stone that has the word “*Trust*” inscribed on it. That is what these ruins witness to us--the trust of a people in their God as evidenced in their work to build these glorious cathedrals because they trusted God to guide them and sustain them. May we find that trust and hold on to it like the stone arch of Lindisfarne holding its shape during the calm and the storms of weather and of life.

I want to thank Barbara Aspinall for being on call while I was gone, as well as welcoming our church to Meyersville on September 8<sup>th</sup>. I’m also grateful for my wife Barbara and daughter Alison for leading worship on the second Sunday I was gone.

See you in church!

*Tom*



The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling  
Feeding Those Who Hunger

## Worship Services and Scripture Passages for October

### October 6, 2019

- *World Communion Sunday*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Pentecost 17C*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection*  
Lamentations 1:1-6, 3:19-26; Psalm 137;  
2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10  
*Lord, Help Us Accept Each Other*

### October 13, 2019

- *Pentecost 18C*  
Jeremiah 29:4-7; Psalm 66:1-12;  
2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19  
*The Living Gospel*

---

*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

### October 20, 2019

- *Pentecost 19C*  
Jeremiah 3:27-34; Psalm 119:97-104;  
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8  
*Does Jacob Finally Get It?*

### October 27, 2019

- *Reformation Sunday*
- *Pentecost 20C*  
Joel 2:23-32; Psalm 65;  
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14  
*When Others Don't Measure Up*

---

**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**

Our "first Saturday of the month Coffee Klatch" will be held on **Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>**, 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.



### **Annual Congregational Election Meeting**

#### Church Elections

The Session has called for a meeting of the congregation to be held on **Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>**, immediately following worship. The purpose of this meeting is to elect church officers for terms beginning in February 2020.

If you are asked to serve, please prayerfully consider it. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting.

## **Travnicek Memorial Ringers**

The handbell choir has started up and will begin playing in the near future. We meet on Monday nights from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. If you have an interest in music, we invite you to join us. It doesn't matter how good your voice is; we only need you to be able to count. We can teach you the rest; talk to Rev. Peters.



## **The Concert Series in Stirling**



Our 2019-20 concert series will begin on **Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 p.m.**, when we will welcome back classical pianist Itay Goren. Mr. Goren has played concerts all over the world. Described as “an evocative journey from shimmering excitement to calm contemplation (Classical New Jersey), pianist Itay Goren's performances touch the heart and magically transport the imagination of the listener.”

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**

**- Rev. Peters**



**On Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>**, 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 Ave., 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, such as St. John's Soup Kitchen in Newark, which serves the local homeless population.

We hope to have a good crew walking this year. It is not only a good thing to walk for those who are hungry, but it is also good exercise! Plan to join us; but, if you cannot, then sponsor someone who is walking. **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>

**Church Brunch and Program**

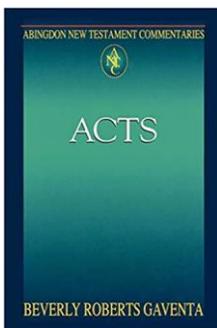
On **Sunday, October 27**, following worship and the Annual Congregational Election meeting, there will be a brunch and program in Pollard Hall. Rev. Peters will talk about the history of the church in Scotland. The Kirk (Church) of Scotland was born out of the Reformation with John Knox in Scotland. This was the beginning of the Presbyterian form of church and worship from which all Presbyterian denominations are descended. Rev. Peters will be sharing pictures and thoughts from his recent trip to Scotland.

**Family Promise of Morris County****- Jan Somers**

Our final Family Promise hosting date for 2019 is on **Halloween, Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>** at Trinity House in Stirling. Dinner will be sandwiches, salad, and dessert. We need hosts from 5-9 p.m. and overnight from 9:00 p.m. to 7 a.m. Please take a look at the sign-up sheet in Pollard Hall to see where you can help.



When we get the roster of guests, I will let you know how many children and their ages so we can plan something special for their Halloween celebration. Any help you can give is greatly appreciated.

**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, October 27<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. 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 27<sup>th</sup>; 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:** Oct. 6: Sue Gerecht      Oct. 20: Janet Parziale  
Oct. 13: Tom Parziale      Oct. 27: Jan Somers



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 - October 6<sup>th</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.



## World Communion Sunday

On October 6<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate **World Communion Sunday**. 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. We hope you will join us for this special service.



## **Reformation Sunday**

### Reformation Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>

October 27<sup>th</sup> 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, and then attend the brunch following worship to hear Rev. Peters' presentation on the history of the Presbyterian Church.

## 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.



**All Saints' Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**

On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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 28<sup>th</sup>**. Forms will also be available in the Church bulletins during October.

✂ \_\_\_\_\_ ✂ \_\_\_\_\_ ✂ \_\_\_\_\_ ✂ \_\_\_\_\_ ✂ \_\_\_\_\_

**All Saints' Sunday, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>**

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

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

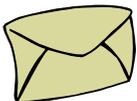
Person's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to You: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please print clearly

**Place this form in the offering plate or send it to the church office by October 28<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.**

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

The Mission of the Month for October is the CROP Walk, which is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> year in 2019. You can make a donation using one of the special Mission of the Month envelopes in the pew racks, by walking on October 20<sup>th</sup>, or by sponsoring one of our walkers. There is more information about the Crop Walk on page 3 of this newsletter.

**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, October 4<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 or Yvonne. If you'd like to help with this program, please speak to Jean or Yvonne.

Upcoming 2019 dates: Nov. 1, and Dec. 6

### 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.



**Note:** I recently brought a large bag of can tabs to a drop-off site; they were very appreciative!

## 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](http://www.fpcstirling.org), and Facebook page, [https://www.facebook.com/fpcStirling/?ref=aymt\\_homepage\\_panel](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.



## **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.

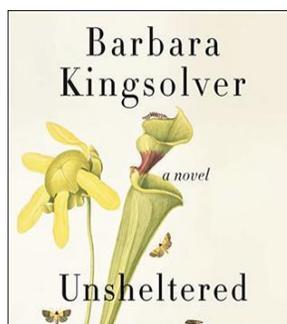


You will not be sitting or lying on the floor, so just bring yourself in comfortable clothes, and invite friends along. The classes are appropriate for all, the flexible as well as the tight. Injuries will be accommodated. Yoga is relaxing as well as good for general health; so, come give it a try. Call or email Roseanne with questions or concerns: 908-508-1435, [rosanne.mcgraw@gmail.com](mailto:rosanne.mcgraw@gmail.com).  
**Please note: There will be no Yoga class on Tuesdays, October 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.**

### **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 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m. to discuss the book. Everyone is welcome to join the group. Copies of the book are available at local libraries.



*Kingsolver uses interwoven timelines to trace the lives of two families living in a house in Vineland, NJ, a century and a half apart. Freelance writer Willa Knox inherits the home in 2016, at a fortuitous moment: her academic husband recently lost tenure, the couple care for his ailing father, and their bohemian daughter has returned from Cuba heartbroken by a love affair. Family life is thrown into further turmoil when their son, reeling from his wife's suicide, leaves his infant in their custody.*

*Willa's forays into the town archives unearths a previous owner whose story unspools in a parallel narrative. A science teacher at the community school, he moves into the house with his touchy younger bride in 1871. For the intellectual sin of propounding Darwinism in the classroom, he clashes with Vineland's founder, a land developer bent on building a self-sufficient Christian colony.*

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

### **World Food Day, October 16<sup>th</sup>**

In 1979, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN designated October 16<sup>th</sup> "**World Food Day**." It has been celebrated annually since 1981 as a day of action dedicated to tackling global hunger. People from 150 countries come together to declare their commitment to eradicate worldwide hunger from our lifetime.



*World Food Day*

The focus of the day is that food is a basic and fundamental human right. Yet, **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 help.**

**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](mailto:jsomers17@hotmail.com)  
by **October 24<sup>th</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?**



*Do this in remembrance of me.*  
Luke 22.19



**World Communion Sunday**

**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.

