



Stirling Stuff

Volume 63, No. 7

Summer 2019

Pastor's Letter

Toward the end of my sermon on Pentecost Sunday, June 9th, I said the following:



The future of our church will be different; we will have to discern where and what the Spirit is leading us to be and do. You will be hearing about it in the next several months. A group from our church and Meyersville Church has been meeting with people from Presbytery to talk about the ministry of our two churches in Long Hill Township. It is a process that will challenge all of us to get out of the boxes we have been in over the years and begin to think in new ways.

The committee that has been meeting is called *Future of Long Hill Presbyterians* (FLHiP). During July and August, we will be holding group gatherings to begin telling our stories and listening to each other's stories: stories about worship and mission that have touched us, as well as stories of our hopes and dreams for the future, as individuals and as churches. Please plan to attend one of the gatherings for our church; your input is important and valuable. The stories will be combined with a timeline experience that both churches will do together, as well as the results of a demographics study, and used to begin to discern what God is calling our two churches to do in the future.

The timeline exercise will take place at Meyersville Presbyterian Church on Sunday, Sept. 29th. We will worship at Meyersville that morning, instead of the first Sunday in October, and then have a pot-luck lunch and do the timeline exercise. Please make every effort to be at this service.

This is a continuation of the efforts of the Future Church Committee that met for our church during 2017 and reported at a meeting of the congregation. **I must stress that this is not a process to automatically merge the two churches!** We do not know where our two churches will end up, but we know that we must begin a conversation. We will keep you informed about what is happening and when. **We need everyone to participate and be a part of the process.**

I want to say that this is not Presbytery telling us that we must do this. The Session of both churches felt this conversation needed to take place and reached out to Presbytery for help and resources. The time is right because the Session and I have determined that I will retire after the Annual Meeting on the last Sunday in January 2021. By starting this process now, the church can begin to discern what will happen after that.



I believe this can be a time of great promise if we can get everyone involved in the process.

See you in church!

Tom

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for July and August

July 7, 2019

Service in Stirling

- Pentecost 4C/Ordinary 14C
- Sacrament of Holy Communion
- Non-Perishable Food Collection
2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30;
Galatians 6:1-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
Rev. Aspinall preaching

July 14, 2019

Service in Stirling

- Pentecost 5C/Ordinary 15C
Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82;
Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37
Rev. Aspinall preaching

July 21, 2019

Service in Stirling

- Pentecost 6C/Ordinary 16C
Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52;
Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42
Rev. Aspinall preaching

July 28, 2019

Service in Stirling

- Pentecost 7C/Ordinary 17C
Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85;
Colossians 2:6-19; Luke 11:1-13
Rev. Aspinall preaching

*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.*



August 4, 2019

Service in Meyersville

- Pentecost 8C/Ordinary 18C
- Sacrament of Holy Communion
- Non-Perishable Food Collection – Fruit Cocktail
Hosea 11:1-11; Psalm 107:1-9, 43;
Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21
Rev. Peters preaching

August 11, 2019

Service in Meyersville

- Pentecost 9C/Ordinary 19C
Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23;
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40
Rev. Peters preaching

August 18, 2019

Service in Meyersville

- Pentecost 10C/Ordinary 20C
Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19;
Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 11:29-56
Rev. Peters preaching

August 25, 2019

Service in Meyersville

- Pentecost 11C/Ordinary 21C
Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6;
Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

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, July 6th**, 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.



Travnicek Memorial Ringers**- Rev. Peters**

I would like to say a big thank you to the members of this year's **Travnicek Memorial Ringers**. They gave up most of their Monday nights from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. This year's choir consisted of Tom Parziale, Shaylyn Gallagan, Lore Pateman, Israel Sierra, J.J. Long, Debra Sprague, Joyce Koenig, Carolyn Malfatone, Elsie Turqman, and Tatiana Akhounizanova. We also want to thank the Wilson Memorial Church *Ost Memorial Ringers* for loaning two members to play with us earlier this year. The beauty of the sound of the bells adds to the service in so many ways. Thank you Ringers!

**Rev. Peters on Vacation**

Rev. Peters will be vacationing at **Chautauqua Institution from July 13 – 27**. If you are in need of pastoral care during this time, please contact Rev. Aspinall at the Meyersville Church office (908-647-0390).

Summer Offering

As we enter the summer months, please remember that we still have bills to pay at the church. If you are going away and will miss some Sundays, please keep your offering up-to-date by donating for those Sundays ahead of time or promptly when you return. Summer is traditionally a difficult time for the church financially. Thank you!

**Christian Education Committee****- Lore Pateman**

The Christian Education Committee wants to thank everyone who taught, helped, and participated in all the programs this past year. We are blessed that, even with a small church, so many people give their time to help with CE.

Thanks to all the teachers and assistants who helped with classes for the youth and with nursery. Many contributed their time and talents, and we want to recognize them: Janet Parziale, Tom Parziale, Joyce Koenig, Lore Pateman, Katherine Ihringer, Kai Ihringer, Shaylyn Gallagan, and JJ Long.



It's hard to believe, but Cheyenne Carbone has just finished 6th Grade and has been in the CE program for 11 years!!!! It really is something special for her to attend on Sundays when many times she is the only student. We are blessed to have her in our church bringing youth and energy to us all.

Also, many thanks to Tom Parziale, who faithfully leads Fourth Sunday Focus every month (as well as many other things). Tom puts so much time into coming up with topics and leading lively discussions; he definitely has a well-deserved fan club.

Thank you to Debra Sprague who does the communications and always has ideas for relevant topics for the CE programs. She brings passion to the group.

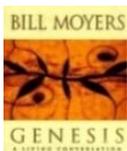
Thanks to Rev. Peters for being our spiritual leader. He inspires us with his sermons, Bible study, and many CE brunch programs.

Last, but not least, thanks to everyone on the CE committee. It is a special team: Rev. Peters, Tom Parziale, Debra Sprague, Susan Brodziak, and me.



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 a.m. 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!

A new study will be starting up soon, and everyone is encouraged to consider joining for the next session.

Fourth Sunday Focus, July 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. **Since worship is at 9:30 a.m. during the summer, we will start around 8:15 a.m. and end by about 9:15 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 28th; we always have lively discussions on a wide range of topics. **If you have a topic you'd like to discuss, contact Tom Parziale. Since we will be worshipping in Meyersville, we will not have a Fourth Sunday Focus in August.**



Worship Committee

- Janet Parziale

Liturgists for July:

July 7:	Ed Gerecht	July 21:	Tom Parziale
July 14:	Sue Gerecht	July 28:	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 - July 7th - Stirling

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.



Non-Perishable Food Collection - August 4th - Meyersville

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 in Meyersville on August 4th, please consider bringing this item (preferably the kind in juice and not syrup) to donate when we are there. Thank you.**



Summer Worship Schedule



**Worship
Schedule
for the
Summer**

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 Sept. 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**. We will be back in Stirling on Sept. 1st, 9:30 a.m., with Rev. Peters preaching. We hope to see you when you are not traveling.

Meyersville Presbyterian Church Service



On Sunday, June 2nd, we worshipped with our friends at the Meyersville Church. During the service, Laura and Ruud Zijdel presented another episode in the life of "Peter and Elizabeth." Janet and Tom Parziale and Ed Gerecht joined in bringing the story to life, as "Peter" healed a man who was lame (Israel Sierra) and had made his "living" by begging. Peter said to the man, "I have no money at all, but I give you what I have: in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, I order you to get up and walk!"



Pentecost Sunday

On Sunday, June 9th, we celebrated Pentecost, which commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus. The sanctuary was decorated in red and gold, including streamers (flames) above the chancel. The Travnicek Memorial Ringers played during worship.

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

The **Mission of the Month for July** is **Family Promise of Morris County**, a program our church has been supporting for 30 years. Family Promise provides emergency shelter and meals 365 days a year through a network of over 70 houses of worship in Morris County. Families facing homelessness (up to 14 individuals at a time) stay at different congregations of all faiths each week where dedicated volunteers provide a safe and comfortable temporary home for them, including meals, sleeping quarters, and a place where they can relax, socialize, do homework, and watch television.



You may use the special **Mission of the Month** 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 organization which is **Ending Homeless One Family at a Time**.

Fellowship Hour

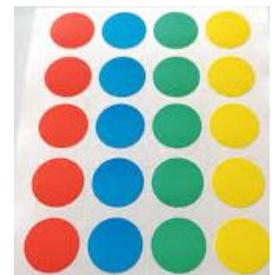
During the summer, our church and Meyersville Presbyterian Church will be sharing services. During the month of July, both congregations will be worshipping at our church. During August, both congregations will be worshipping at Meyersville.



The Deacons are looking for your help in preparing and serving Fellowship Hour during July. Summer is the easiest time to host since you only need to serve juice, iced tea/lemonade, and water along with your goodies (cookies, fruit, pretzels, popcorn, etc.). No coffee or hot tea! If you are available and interested in hosting a Sunday in July, sign up in Pollard Hall on the Deacon board. If you have any questions or need help, feel free to speak to any Deacon.

Coordinating Food Items in the Church Refrigerator

Have you ever opened the church refrigerator and wondered, "Can I use this drink or food for Fellowship Hour?" Well, the Deacons have come up with a new method for distinguishing what food or drink is available. When putting something in the church refrigerator, please mark it with an appropriate sticker. There are **red, blue, green, yellow, and white stickers in a folder attached to the refrigerator door, along with instructions**. Deacon items will be marked with a **RED** sticker and are meant for Deacon events, such as Fellowship Hour. Rev. Peters and Paulette Irlander will mark their items with **BLUE** stickers. Items meant for the Concert Series should be marked with a **YELLOW** sticker. Items placed in the refrigerator with a **GREEN** sticker are available for anyone to use. For any other group, please use the small white stickers and write your group name on it. If you have any questions, Janet Parziale will be happy to help you. Thank you for your support in helping with this effort.

**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 summer commitment dates for preparing 40 lunches are: **Fridays, July 5th and August 2nd, 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: Sept. 6, Oct. 4, 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.



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."



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

Boy Scout Troop 59

- Ed Gerecht



Boy Scout Troop 59 will be attending Sabattis Adventure Camp in the Adirondack Mountains from July 20-27, where they will be working on Merit Badges and Scout skills. We will be starting our regular Wednesday meetings again on September 11th.

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.

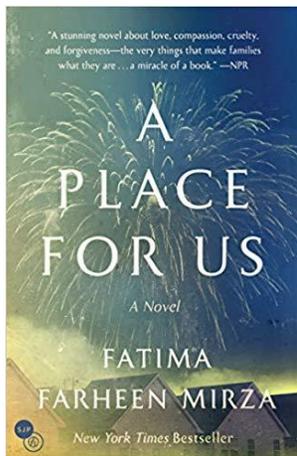


You will not be sitting or lying on the floor, so just bring yourself in comfortable clothes, and invite friends along. The classes are appropriate for all, the flexible as well as the tight. Injuries will be accommodated. Yoga is relaxing, as well as good for general health; so, come give it a try. 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, "**A Place for Us**," a novel by Fatimah Meerza. The group will meet in the parlor at Meyersville on Tuesday, September 10th, 7:30 p.m. to discuss the book. Everyone is welcome to join the group. Copies of the book are available in local libraries. There are a couple of books with this title, so make sure you get the right author.



As an Indian wedding gathers a family back together, parents Rafiq and Layla must reckon with the choices their children have made.

There is Hadia: their headstrong, eldest daughter, whose marriage is a match of love and not tradition. Huda, the middle child, determined to follow in her sister's footsteps. And, lastly, their estranged son, Amar, returns to the family fold for the first time in three years to take his place as brother of the bride.

What secrets and betrayals have caused this close-knit family to fracture? Can Amar find his way back to the people who know and love him best?

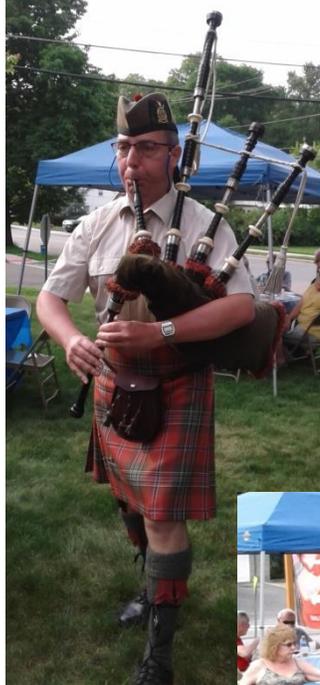
A Place for Us takes us back to the beginning of this family's life: from the bonds that bring them together, to the differences that pull them apart. All the joy and struggle of family life is here, from Rafiq and Layla's own arrival in America from India, to the years in which their children -- each in their own way -- tread between two cultures, seeking to find their place in the world, as well as a path home.

A Place for Us is a book for our times: an astonishingly tender-hearted novel of identity and belonging, and a resonant portrait of what it means to be an American family today.

Sixth Annual Fish & Chips Dinner

Our Sixth Annual Argyles Fish & Chips dinner was held on June 1st. Once again, the weather was beautiful, and the day was a great success. Bagpiper, Dave Palladino, entertained everyone with beautiful, stirring music, including, "Stirling on the Hill." Thank you to everyone who helped with this important church fundraiser and community event. Here are some pictures from the day:







Lost & Found: A blue denim jacket was found after the Fish & Chips supper. If you know who may have lost it, please contact the church office, 908-647-1033.

Annual Church Picnic

On June 9th, we held our Annual Church Picnic on the front lawn. As always, everyone enjoyed good food and fellowship. The highlight of the afternoon was the annual egg toss. Congratulations to the winning team of Lynn Blakeslee and Tom Parziale!



Art England is Turning 100!

Our long-time friend, Arthur England, recently moved to North Carolina to be near his family. Below is a note from Art's son, Robert. His family is hoping all of Art's friends will send him a card for his 100th birthday, which he will celebrate on July 12th. Their goal is for Art to receive 100 cards. So, please join in, and send Art a card to the address listed below.



Hello Everyone -

We hope this message finds you well. Dad has now been here in Hendersonville for two and a half months. He lives on the second floor at Sunnybrook Assisted Living. We were told by another person who lives there that, "everyone on the second floor knows your father, he is friendly and has a positive attitude." Dad asked for and is currently getting physical therapy. Most recently we took him to the Memorial Day Ceremony in Hendersonville where he met with the person who organizes this event every year.

As many of you probably know Arthur England will turn 100 years old on July 12, 2019. The England Family would like to ask all who can participate in wishing Arthur a Happy 100th Birthday by sending him a birthday card at his address:

*Arthur England
Sunnybrook Assisted Living
306 Spring St. Apt 211
Hendersonville, N.C. 28739*

Community News

On July 17th (rain date: July 18th), 7 – 9:00 p.m., join Ross Griswold and The Second Line for an outdoor show in Warren Township as part of their Summer Concert Series. Family friendly, so bring the whole crew and chairs.
Location: 6 Bardy Rd, Warren

Styrofoam Recycling**- Jan Somers**

After some research, I have found a site that accepts white styrofoam for recycling. If you have pieces of styrofoam packing from a new appliance, furniture, tv, etc., please let me know, and I will take it to be recycled. They do not accept any type of food packaging.

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 September issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by **August 22nd**. 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?

