



Stirling Stuff

Volume 64, No. 6

June 2020

Pastor's Letter

Recently, I have been angry. I have been angry at people who are not wearing masks in public and government officials who are opening things up too soon and too fast. I was going to address these issues in a way that would talk about the need for us to wear masks and self-distance as a way of caring for our neighbor. I will admit these concerns and my anger has been out of fear for my son, who is working in a hospital and being run ragged taking care of people with Covid-19. Thankfully, his unit is now starting to receive non-Covid-19 patients as the numbers continue to fall. I am also aware that there could be a second wave, and we could be right back where we have been since the middle of March. I also have had the anger and pain that not only did my daughter not get the graduation she and all of her class at Union Theological Seminary deserved, as do all students graduating this year, but also we were unable to be with her and to hug and share in the joy of the celebration in "normal" ways.



So, as I said, I have been angry this past week. Then, I read the following story in the late Fr. Anthony de Mello's book, *The Song of the Bird*, again.

Dandelions

A man who took great pride in his lawn found himself with a large crop of dandelions. He tried every method he knew to get rid of them. Still they plagued him.

Finally, he wrote to the Department of Agriculture. He enumerated all the things he had tried and closed his letter with this question: *What shall I do now?*

In due course the reply came: *We suggest you learn to love them.*

In a time when we may find ourselves angry and lashing out at those who we feel are putting themselves and others in danger, perhaps we need to be reminded that we need to learn to love them. I know this is true for me right now. We cannot let our fear and anger make us stop loving our brothers and sisters. I will admit that, for me, and I imagine for you as well, it is easier said than done. May God give us the courage and will to, at the very least, make the effort.

These certainly are thoughts we should ponder as we continue our journey through the pandemic.

CORONAVIRUS PREVENTION

See you in church . . . online!

Tom



AVOID



KEEP CLEAN



DISINFECTANT



SYMPTOMS AWARE

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for June

June 7, 2020

- *Trinity Sunday*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
See article on pg. 3 of this newsletter regarding this Communion service
Genesis 1:1-2:4; Psalm 82
2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20.
What Is Genesis 1 All About?

June 14, 2020

- *Second Sunday after Pentecost*
- *Ordinary 11A*
Genesis 18:1-15; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19;
Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8
The Courage to Laugh



June 21, 2020

- *Third Sunday after Pentecost*
- *Ordinary 12A*
- *Father's Day*
Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17;
Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39.
A Muscular Jesus?
Luke 9:18-24

June 28, 2020

- *Fourth Sunday after Pentecost*
- *Ordinary 13A*
Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13;
Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:34-42.
It's Not About 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.



Message from Rev. Peters

If you know of anyone who needs help with food or something else, please contact Rev. Peters, and he will help get them what they need. We have people in the church who have been helping others by going to the grocery store or pharmacy.

Thank you to the Deacons who continue contacting people just to see how they're doing during this time. People have told me how much they appreciate it. It is vitally important for us to remain connected during this time of isolation.

Per Capita Apportionment

Per Capita helps support the work of our Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. Our per capita apportionment of **\$39** per member for 2020. If you have not paid your share for each church member in your family, please send it to the church or directly to Elsie Turqman, our Financial Secretary; and, be sure to note "Per Capita" on your check. Thank you.

- Rev. Peters
What is
Per
Capita?



Stewardship**- Rev. Peters**

We know this is a difficult time for everyone, which includes financial difficulties. If you are able to, we hope you will continue to send in your pledge. You can use the **PayPal Online Giving Link**, which is on the home page of our church's website. Or, mail your check either to the church or directly to Elsie Turqman, our Financial Secretary. Her address is in the church directory. If you donate to "Mission of the Month," please note that on your check and include your envelope number. Thank you!

How to View Our Worship Service Online**- Janet Parziale**

The church website, www.fpcstirling.org, has links on the home page that will take you the Live Streaming and Video Archives page. On this page, you can click the "Live Streaming" link beside the picture of Rev. Peters. The links to all online services, listed by date, will hold the video recording of the live stream. The videos will be available for you to view later if you are not able to view the live streamed version. For several services, Rev. Peters has created a bulletin for you to use at home to follow along in the service. A link to each bulletin can also be found on this page. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Janet Parziale at janetparziale@comcast.net or call 908-647-2212, and she will do her best to help you.

**Join the Online Zoom Coffee Hour****- Janet Parziale**

Many folks have been enjoying our online Zoom **coffee hours each Sunday at 11:00 a.m.** It has brought together friends and family of the church here in Long Hill Township and surrounding towns and from as far away as Washington State with Dani Clark and Iowa with David, Brooke, and Eleanor Parziale, and New York City with Ali Peters. For many, these online visits with one another have been fun, therapeutic, and a great way to catch up.

If you have not attended, please try it during June. You do not need any special software to join in the fun; just click the link on the email provided by Rev. Peters each week to participate. You can join with video or just with audio, using your phone, kindle, tablet, or computer. If you need the link resent, please feel free to contact Janet Parziale (908-647-2212 or at janetparziale@comcast.net) or Rev. Peters. They will be happy to forward you the email with the link. We hope to see you there this coming Sunday!

Sacrament of Holy Communion

On Sunday, **June 7th**, we will celebrate the **Sacrament of Communion virtually**. It will require that you have a piece of bread and a cup of grape juice or red wine on hand at your home. During the service, I will say the prayers. When I do the breaking of the bread, you will break your bread; and, when I hold up my cup, you will hold up your cup. If there are 2 or more people at your home, you will serve each other; otherwise, serve yourself. While we cannot see each other, we can all be together in the celebrating and sharing of the sacrament. I hope you will join us for this service.



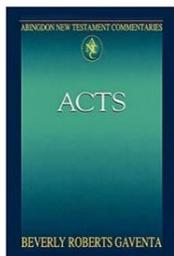
Music During Online Worship

Dear Church Family,

I know it has been difficult to not have Tatiana playing the hymns and other music during our on-line worship. I have heard your thoughts, and I am working on it. We will try it on an upcoming Sunday and see how it works. The issue seems to be that the music works well during the live service, but the recording that people can listen to later turns into a garbled mess during the hymns. Bear with me as I try to figure out a way to make it happen.

**Christian Education Committee**

- Rev. Peters

Adult Bible Study

Bible Study continues on **Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. online**. We are using **Dr. Beverly Gaventa's book, Acts**; I read portions that I think are important, and then we discuss them. You may access the Bible Study through the following: paste the address of the "Join Zoom Meeting" address in your web browser, and then paste the Password if or when asked.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/955212010?pwd=czBOUUpBaWFuSmdJSnVCYlZqQXBzUT09>
Meeting ID: 955 212 010 Password: 202121

Deacons' Corner

- Janet Parziale

Mission of the Month - June - Local Food Pantry

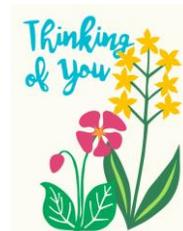
The Mission of the Month for June will go towards our local Food Pantry at St Vincent's Catholic church across the street from our church. With the current pandemic still hitting many individuals hard, getting food on the table has become extremely difficult for many families. Food Pantries across the nation are being stretched beyond their limits to support their local communities. Please consider giving to this worthy mission to help fund our local Food Pantry. This special offering will be collected throughout the month of June. **Since we are not currently meeting at the church, feel free to send your donation for this mission giving to the church office (158 Central Ave, Stirling, NJ 07980) or directly to Elsie Turqman.** Remember to include your name and/or your envelope number if you would like your donation to be recorded. Thank you in advance for supporting this mission giving.



The two food banks in town, at St. Vincent's and All Saints' Episcopal Church, are becoming depleted and members of the Long Hill community are being asked to donate food items to help restock their shelves. St. Vincent's would welcome **spaghetti and spaghetti sauce, pancake mixes, coffee, tea, white rice, Jello gelatin, macaroni & cheese, cannellini or garbanzo beans (cans), canned vegetables, and dry beans (black, kidney, and pinto)**. You can drop off any food donations directly to St Vincent's church by placing your food items inside the church's vestibule. The doors are always open. Items All Saints' would welcome include, **tuna, white rice, canned soups, canned fruits, and canned veg, jelly, syrup, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, oatmeal, canned tuna or chicken, canned vegetables & fruit, dry goods like beans, flower, rice, pasta, granola bars, apple sauce, diapers, Enfamil formula, soap, toothpaste.** Items for the food pantry may be dropped off between 9:30 AM and 7 PM Monday through Saturday or from Noon to 8 PM on Sunday." Items may be dropped off at the side entrance of the All Saints' church in the food barrel.

Need Help? Want to Chat?

During this time of staying at home, it is easy to begin missing that human connection. If you are in need of help getting groceries or just want to talk to someone, please feel free to call a Deacon or Rev. Peters. We are ready to help in any way we can. If you know of someone who needs assistance, please reach out to one of us, even if it's just for an ear to listen.



Know Someone Who Needs a Card?

Each week during the Prayers of the People, folks in the congregation lift up names of members, friends, and family who need our prayers for joys and concerns. Many have attested to the power of prayer in helping to give strength to all those involved. A Deacon notes names of members mentioned and sends cards to let them know they're being thought of and they're in the prayers of the congregation to get well, share joyful wishes, or express sympathy.

During this time when we are not meeting together, if you know of a member who is in need of our thoughts or prayers, please let Janet Parziale know so that a card can be sent. Janet can be reached at janetparziale@comcast.net or 908-647-2212.

Mission Programs**Bridges Outreach Lunch Program****- Janet Parziale**

I have been in contact with the Bridges organization and, while they are in need of as many lunches as we can provide, we all want to ensure that they are prepared and delivered in a manner that is safe for everyone. Going forward, Bridges is not using their sign-up process to schedule lunch drop-offs. They are asking that we bring them any day (Mon-Thurs) convenient to us. Only one person will be handling the preparations during this time. For June we will select one day during the first week to make the sandwiches and prepare the brown bags with the non-perishable goodies and one person will take them down to Summit.

Facilities & Property**- Tom Parziale****Memorial Garden Rededication**

The rededication of the Memorial Garden, which had been planned for Father's Day, has now been postponed until late summer/early fall. Everyone will be notified when a new date is set.

Church Facilities

As most of you already know, the 2020 Fish & Chips dinner has been cancelled.

While the Church complex is "closed," you should be aware that, like other facilities, it continues to be managed. This is the responsibility of the Facilities & Property Committee. Prior to the pandemic, we tried to walk through the complex about once a week. Now we are ensuring that this is done since there is a lack of building use. The heating, plumbing, and general infrastructure areas are all reviewed.

I've been asked several times what will be involved with reopening the building and what ongoing practices will need to be in place. Honestly, that is all to be determined, based upon sound medical and health advice when that time comes.

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, Stirling Stuff, 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.**

If you have some free time, we have quite a collection of articles/newspapers that have accumulated since we last had a workday. They need to be perused and "clipped" so they can be put into our binders. Speak to Jan or Rev. Peters if you'd like to help keep the archives up to date.

Congratulations to All Our Graduates

- Jan Somers

Kylin Szewczuk, granddaughter of Jan Somers, is graduating from the 8th grade at Ethel Hoppock Middle School in Bethlehem Township, NJ. Kylin will be attending North Hunterdon High School.



Ian Blakeslee, son of Lynn and Jeff, is receiving his Bachelor of Science Degree with Highest Honors in Engineering Physics, with a concentration in Applied Optics and a minor in Pure and Applied Mathematics, from Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, NJ. In August, Ian begins employment as a software engineer with Novus Partners, Inc. in NYC, while continuing to work on his Masters in Financial Engineering from Stevens Institute. A graduation ceremony has been tentatively rescheduled for October 17th.

Amanda Gerecht, daughter of Susan and Ed, is graduating from Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, with a Bachelors' Degree in Communications, with an emphasis in Marketing. Amanda will be working in Marketing.

Alison Peters, daughter of Revs. Barbara and Tom, graduated from Union Theological Seminary in NYC on May 15th with a Master of Divinity Degree. Next, she will do a full-time internship at a Unitarian Universalist church. She will start working from home and then move to the Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Appleton, Wisconsin once the Covid-19 cases in Wisconsin stop climbing. After completing her internship, Ali will do a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education in a hospital, nursing home, or other clinical setting. She can then be ordained as a Pastor in the Unitarian Universalist church.



While the Class of 2020 will always have the distinction of graduating in the midst of the world-wide Covid-19 pandemic, you can all be proud that you persevered through on-line classes, social distancing, and forgoing the ceremonies and celebrations you have earned. Best wishes as you move on in your educational, professional, and personal lives! *(Jan Somers)*

Letters to the Class of 2020

Former member, Elen Filippatos, who teaches third grade, had her students write "Letters to the Class of 2020." She posted the project on Facebook, and the children's letters are precious. Elen's post has been shared thousands of times. You do not have to be on Facebook to see them; the link is:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10221511447916689&set=pcb.10221511463477078&type=3&theater>



Helping Out

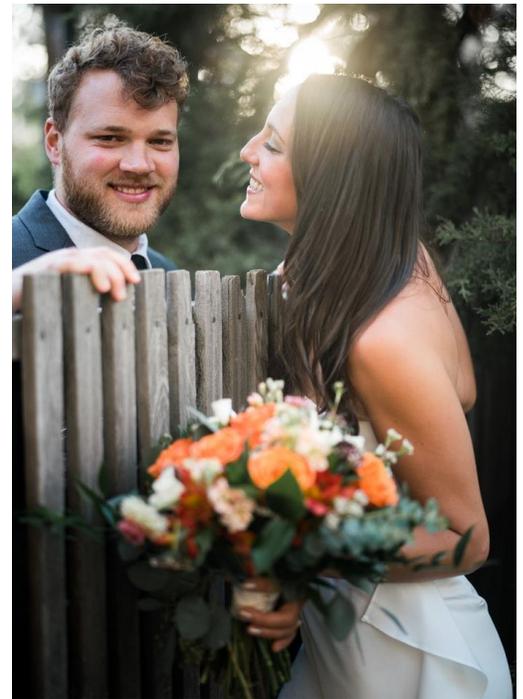
- Jan Somers

Elsie Turqman and Jan Somers have been sewing fabric face masks. If you or someone you know needs one, please contact Elsie or Jan.

Wedding Congratulations

Congratulations to Steven Pateman & Stefanie Carotenuto who were married on May 4th in their Boulder, Colorado backyard. Greg DeMatteo was their best man. Steven's parents, Lore & Rich, along with more than 80 family members and friends, attended the ceremony via Zoom. Steven & Stef have known each other since they were freshman in high school. Best wishes to the happy couple as they begin their married life together.

And, congratulations to Lore and Rich Pateman who truly have an "empty nest" now after both of their children were married within four weeks of each other!

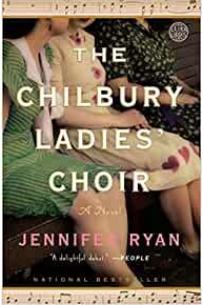


Meyersville Presbyterian Church

Meyersville Book Club

- Jan Somers

The book club will be meeting via **Zoom on Tuesday, June 9th, 7:30 p.m.**, to discuss “The Chilbury Ladies’ Choir,” a novel by Jennifer Ryan. Everyone is welcome to join; please let Rev. Aspinall or Jan Somers know so that you receive the Zoom link for the discussion.



As England becomes enmeshed in the early days of World War II and the men are away fighting, the women of Chilbury village forge an uncommon bond. They defy the Vicar’s stuffy edict to close the choir and instead “carry on singing,” resurrecting themselves as the Chilbury Ladies’ Choir. We come to know the home-front struggles of five unforgettable choir members: a timid widow devastated when her only son goes to fight; the older daughter of a local scion drawn to a mysterious artist; her younger sister pining over an impossible crush; a Jewish refugee from Czechoslovakia hiding a family secret; and a conniving midwife plotting to outrun her seedy past.

An enchanting ensemble story that shuttles from village intrigue to romance to the heartbreaking matters of life and death, it thrillingly illuminates the true strength of the women on the home front in a village of indomitable spirit.

Ongoing Mission Programs: Please save these until we are back in the sanctuary:

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
- ✓ 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 from 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

Please e-mail submissions for the Summer issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by **June 25th**. Thank you!

Stirling Stuff is the newsletter of
Why not invite a friend to online church?



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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.

