



Stirling Stuff

Volume 64, No. 9

October 2020

Pastor's Letter

This month marks the 10th month since the pandemic entered the US in January. Our church sanctuary has been closed for 7 months. In October, we will begin to go back inside. I am grateful to our church family for the way you have lived with the protocol of worshiping online and outdoors and meeting via Zoom. I'm grateful for your patience as we figured out how to put services online and have improved over time. I want to thank everyone who has helped to make our online worship services so interesting with guest Liturgists and Tatiana's piano and organ music. It is also fortunate that we have the capability and the technology to be able to record our services to include special titles, credits, and "follow-along" text on the screen, as well as recorded music against video landscapes. Our online services have been like wine – they improved as they aged in the process of how they have been done.



Now we look forward to starting to get back together in the sanctuary. However, it is not back to normal; we may never get back to the old normal. The best we may be able to do is a new normal. I know we will continue to work together and make this happen. Please call the church and leave a message if you are coming to worship so we can let people know when we go over the maximum number we can have in the sanctuary (22-25 people, depending on family groupings). We will continue to do online recorded services for those who are not ready to be in the sanctuary and for those we may not have room for on Sunday morning. We also ask that you continue to bear with us as we work out the kinks of this new protocol. I will send out the new protocol the week before October 4th.

I know it will boost our spirits to be back in the sanctuary. May God continue to bless our church with health and a wonderful spirit.

See you in Church!

Tom



The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for October

October 4, 2020 – Worship 10:00 a.m.

- *World Communion Sunday*
- *Sacrament of Communion (Online & in Church)*
- *Pentecost 18A; Ordinary 27A*
Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19;
Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46
Who Are You Sitting Next To?

October 11, 2020

Pentecost 19A; Ordinary 28A
Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23;
Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14
Finding God in The World

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.

October 18, 2020

- *Pentecost 20A; Ordinary 29A*
Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99;
I Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22
Letting God Be God

October 25, 2020

- *Reformation Sunday*
- *Pentecost 21A; Ordinary 30A*
Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17;
I Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46
Law and Order and the Church

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.



Sermon Request Time

- Rev. Peters

During some of November and January, I will entertain requests for sermons you would like to hear again. Just send me the title or approximate date and subject, and I will consider preaching it again.

Message from Rev. Peters

Although many of us are now able to get out to shop and take care of other errands, we have people in the church who will help if needed. Also, if you know of anyone who is in need of food or something else, please contact Rev. Peters.



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

Stewardship

- Rev. Peters



If you are able, we hope you will continue to send in your pledge. You can use the **Online Giving Link** (with your credit card or a PayPal account), which is on the home page of our church's website. Or, mail your check to the church or directly to Elsie Turqman, our Financial Secretary. Her address is in the church directory.

How to View Our Online Worship Service

- Janet Parziale

The church website, www.fpcstirling.org, has links on the home page that will take you to the recorded worship services. On the home page, you can click the "Recorded Services" link at the top of the page or the "Online Services/Bulletin" link on the left-hand side. Both of these links will take you to the page for our recorded services. The links to all online services, listed by date, have the video recording and also offer you a link to the weekly bulletin you can use to follow the service. The videos will be available for you to view once they are uploaded, usually sometime on the Saturday before each Sunday Service. 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. It has brought together friends and families of the church here in Long Hill Township and surrounding towns and from as far away as Washington State, Colorado, Iowa, and New York City. For many, these visits online with one another have been fun, therapeutic, and a great way to catch up with one another.

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

Rededication of Memorial Garden

- Lynn Blakeslee



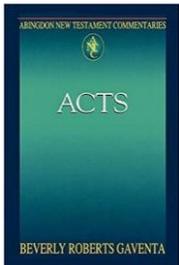
The Memorial Garden Committee is excited to announce that on **Sunday, November 1st**, immediately following church services, there will be a **rededication of the Memorial Garden**. The Memorial Garden has been undergoing a series of updates and improvements. Last year, several dead trees were removed, new plantings were installed, new posts were installed in cement to support the arbors and gates, and some of the bluestone slabs were re-installed. This year, the updates include an expansion of the

garden area beyond the previous border on the Chestnut Street side of the garden, as well as the installation of some new plants and a new irrigation system. The expansion of the garden has allowed for the relocation of some plants to provide more space for them to grow to their full size and provide more privacy in the garden area in the future.

In addition, members of the committee (the team of "Blakeslee and Blakeslee") power washed the side of the church facing the garden to remove unsightly green tree sap and algae. That was followed by a fun time Janet Parziale had painting the arbors, lattices, and gates. We are grateful for Jeff Blakeslee's engineering talents as the doors are now level! Special thanks to Tom Parziale for overseeing all of these tasks and keeping the team on track.

Efforts are being made to contact family members of those who are laid to rest in the garden and invite them to attend the rededication ceremony. Please plan to join your church family on November 1st to celebrate the beauty of the Memorial Garden as well as to honor those whose remains are interred there.

If you are interested in becoming a part of the Memorial Garden Committee, please speak to Rev. Peters, Lynn Blakeslee, or Tom Parziale.

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

The Thursday morning Bible Study continues to meet on Zoom from 10:30 am – Noon. We are continuing our look at the Book of Acts, using Beverly Gaventa's book, *Acts*. It is never too late to join us; just let Rev. Peters know so he can send you the Zoom Link.

You may access the Bible Study through the following: paste the address for "Join Zoom Meeting" into your web browser, and then paste the Password if or when asked. Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/955212010?pwd=czB0UUpBaWFuSmJJSnVCYlZqQXBzUT09>

Meeting ID: 955 212 010 Password: 202121

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

Throughout the month of October, our **Mission of the Month will be focused on Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)**. As noted on their website (<https://pda.pcusa.org/>), "Presbyterian Disaster Assistance enables congregations and mission partners of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crises and catastrophic events." Currently, this organization is working to support victims of Hurricanes Laura and Sally, the Pacific Northwest Fires, and the Iowa Derecho. Each of these disasters has been devastating to many communities, and "PDA funds provide immediate financial support to the Presbytery's response to the needs of the community in the wake of the disaster. These funds are used in a variety of ways: to support long term recovery work, volunteer rebuilding programs, emotional and spiritual care for leaders and survivors, and other programs, depending on the needs in the community and the gaps left by other responding agencies and groups." (<https://pda.pcusa.org/page/faq/>)



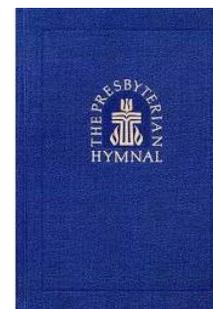
**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

This special offering will be collected throughout October. **If you are not able to come to church, feel free to send your donation for this mission giving to the church office (158 Central Ave, Stirling, NJ 07980) or to Elsie Turqman.** Remember to mark it as "October Mission of the Month," and include your name and/or envelope number if you would like your donation to be recorded. Thank you in advance for supporting this special mission program.

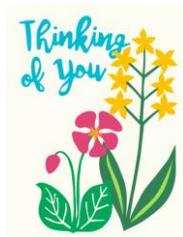
Sign-Out a Blue Church Hymnal?

Prior to the sanctuary reopening, all books will be removed from the pews. The Deacons are offering an option for our church members to sign-out a blue hymnal for use at home or to bring back and forth for your own use during worship services each Sunday. The hymnals will be numbered, and the member's name and date book is taken will be recorded on a sheet by a Deacon. Once the pandemic is over, the Deacons will ask those who signed out a hymnal to return it, and the date of return will also be recorded. During the month of October, there will be an opportunity at the end of each service to sign out a book. If you want to sign out a hymnal but will not be attending worship in person, please contact Janet Parziale, and she will arrange to get one to you.



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, Rev. Peters lifts 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 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.

If you know of someone 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.

Worship Committee**- Janet Parziale****Online Service Liturgists for October:**

Oct. 4:	Kai & Katherine Ihringer	Oct. 18:	TBD
Oct. 11:	TBD	Oct. 25:	Tom Parziale



If you would like to serve as Liturgist during worship at church or online, please email Janet Parziale or speak to Rev. Peters.

World Communion Sunday

As we move back to indoor services this month, we begin with **World Communion Sunday on October 4th**. On this Sunday, we celebrate the Lord's Supper with all our sisters and brothers around the world. In the past, we have celebrated communion with Deacons preparing the bread and juice and the Elders serving it to us in our pews. With the current pandemic, our procedures will be a bit different to minimize our interactions. A Deacon, using gloves, will prepare the juice in disposable cups and the bread in mini cupcake holders. The juice will be put directly into the cup holders in the open pews. The bread, in the mini cupcake holders, will be placed on a silver serving tray and set on the communion table. When it is time to serve the

bread, those wishing to participate will be asked to come forward and pick up a cupcake holder with the bread and take it back to their seat. Rev. Peters will lead us through this process during the service.

Reformation Sunday, October 25th

October 25th 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 in church or online for this important day in our Church's history.



A Big Thank You!**- Janet Parziale**

Beginning in July, our worship services were a bit different from the earlier months during this pandemic. We opened outdoor services on the front lawn on Sunday mornings and started recorded services that were uploaded to YouTube and viewed by members of our church family at a time convenient for them. We have all learned a great deal in the process of creating the online recorded worship services. We have learned how to create videos with our phones or home computers, how to find our videos, and then upload and share these video files so they could be incorporated into a final worship service video.

I want to take a moment to thank all the folks who shared their talents as Liturgists for these recorded worship services, including Kai Ihringer, Shaylyn Gallagan, Ed Gerecht, Lynn Blakeslee, Alison Peters, Amanda Gerecht, Tom Parziale, Lore Pateman, David Parziale, and Dawn and Sandy Mackay. I want to thank Tatiana Akhounzianova for providing beautiful music for each of our services, both the outdoor and recorded services. Thank you to Jan Somers for her expert work in proofreading the bulletins. Lastly, thank you to Rev. Peters for being flexible and patient with the Worship Committee and their critiques while creating services.



With the resuming of our indoor services in October, we will also continue making recorded services for those who will not be able to attend in person. We will still need of Liturgists for the online services, and I hope you will help when asked. Many thanks again to those who are named above and for those who will help with future services.

Outdoor Services

Here are some pictures from an outdoor worship service earlier in September:



Mission Programs

Bridges Outreach Lunch Program

- Janet Parziale



The Bridges organization is still in need of as many lunches as we can provide, but we all want to ensure that they are prepared and delivered in a safe manner. 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. We will select a day when the sandwiches will be made and the brown bags prepared with non-perishable goodies, and one person will take them to Summit.

2020 CROP Walk, Sunday, October 18th

- Rev. Peters

The Walk is virtual, but the need could not be more real!

There will be a Crop Walk this year, but it will not be in New Providence; rather, it will be wherever you want it to be. The following was on the site for the New Providence Crop walk:

Choose your own starting location!

WALK! Walk around your block, walk around your neighborhood, walk in a local park, or simply walk around your living room!

The need is very great this year because of the pandemic. Erin Luchenbill, a Crop Walk fundraising coach, wrote in a recent email:

If ever there was a time to join the movement again, 2020 is it.

Here's why--in May, I was reading through a New York Times article and was stopped in my tracks by this devastating sentence:

"In a matter of mere months, the coronavirus has wiped out global gains that took two decades to achieve, leaving an estimated two billion people at risk of abject poverty."



So, plan to walk wherever you want to walk on **Sunday, October 18th**. Sign-up on line at crophungerwalk.org. Look for the New Providence, NJ walk, and register your name, and then invite friends and family to donate to your walk online. Let's see if we can get 10+ people to walk this year. Let's do our part to help our neighbors!

Facilities & Property Management



Thank you to everyone who helped spruce up the church grounds during a recent clean-up day. Pictured here are: Rev. Peters, Israel Sierra, Evelyn Smith (clipping Izzy's broom), and Tom Parziale. Lynn Blakeslee was the photographer as well as a helper. Thanks also to Sue Wermuth, Kim Ridgway, and Janet Parziale who did lots of weeding on previous days.

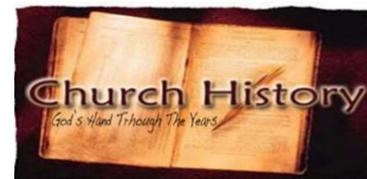
Church Website & Facebook Page

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.** Items can be mailed to the Church (labeled "Archives"), or you can hold onto them until you are in building. Thank you.



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. If you would like a copy, please contact the church office and it can be mailed to you.

Helping Out

- Jan Somers



It looks as though we'll be wearing masks for some time. So, Elsie Turqman and Jan Somers continue sewing fabric face masks in different sizes. If you or someone you know needs one, please contact Elsie or Jan.

World Food Day, October 16th

- Jan Somers

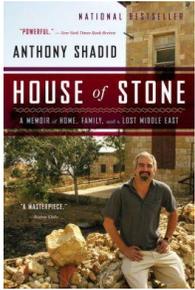


In 1979, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN designated October 16th "World Food Day." It has been celebrated annually since 1981 as a day of action dedicated to tackling global hunger. People from 150 countries come together to declare their commitment to eradicate worldwide hunger from our lifetime. Food is seen as a basic human right, yet one in nine people globally experience chronic hunger.

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 local food bank and the upcoming CROP Walk are good ways to help.**

Meyersville Presbyterian Church**Meyersville Book Club****- Jan Somers**

The book club will be meeting via **Zoom on Tuesday, November 10, 7:30 p.m.**, to discuss *“House of Stone: A Memoir of Home, Family, and a Lost Middle East,”* by Anthony Shadid. Rev. Aspinall has extra copies of the book available. Everyone is welcome to join; please let Rev. Aspinall or Jan Somers know so that you receive the Zoom link for the discussion.



In spring 2011, Anthony Shadid was one of four New York Times reporters captured in Libya, cuffed and beaten, as that country was seized by revolution. When he was freed, he went home. Not to Boston or Beirut—where he lives— or to Oklahoma City, where his Lebanese-American family had settled and where he was raised. Instead, he returned to his great-grandfather’s estate, a house that, over three years earlier, Shadid had begun to rebuild.

House of Stone is the story of a battle-scarred home and a war correspondent’s jostled spirit, and of how reconstructing the one came to fortify the other. In this poignant and resonant memoir, the author creates a mosaic of past and present, tracing the house’s renewal alongside his family’s flight from Lebanon and resettlement in America. In the process, Shadid memorializes a lost world, documents the shifting Middle East, and provides profound insights into this volatile landscape. House of Stone is an unforgettable meditation on war, exile, rebirth, and the universal yearning for home.

All Saints' Sunday, November 1st

On November 1st 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 26th**. Plan to join us that day in church or online as we honor these special people.

Please cut here and return the completed bottom section only.

✂ ----- ✂ ----- ✂ ----- ✂ ----- ✂ -----

All Saints' Sunday, Nov. 1st

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

Your Name: _____

Person's Name: _____

Relationship to You: _____

Please print clearly

Place this form in the offering plate, mail it to the church office, or email the information to Paulette at secretary@fpcstirling.org by October 26th. Thank you.

Ongoing Mission Programs:

Items collected for various causes:

- ✓ Full-sized and "courtesy"-sized bars of soap, shampoo, conditioner, shower caps
- ✓ 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

Please e-mail submissions for the November issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
 by **October 22nd**. Thank you!

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

Stirling Stuff is the newsletter of

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Our Mission

Jesus said, "Feed My Sheep." This welcoming and caring family, empowered by the love of Christ, shares the grace and peace of God's blessings by serving those who are hungry in body or spirit.

Why not invite a friend to online church?

