



# *Stirling Stuff*

**Volume 65, No. 5**

**May 2021**

## **Pastor's Message**



Dear Church Family,

Promises, promises. Broken, unfulfilled promises can be hurtful – whether it is promises made by political candidates, friends, or family members. Broken promises damage both our trust in others and our own ability to judge whether or not to trust others. We want to believe; we want to trust, but broken promises bring disappointment, sadness, frustration, and even heartbreak. Sometimes those feelings are related to another's promise and sometimes to our own broken promises.

We are still in the season of Eastertide, still celebrating God's triumph in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This was God's promise unbroken, God's promise fulfilled. There are empty promises all around us, but the resurrection is not one of them. God has staked everything – God's love, the Incarnation, God's commitment to us – on the fulfillment of this promise. Even if others don't come through for us, even if we don't come through for ourselves or for others, God's promise is real and unbroken.

And this, of course, is very Good News. It means our present and our future is assured and secured. But what difference does knowing this make in our lives now? How does it change our present, how we live our lives? How does it affect our own promises?

As Christians in this world, as people who trust in God's resurrection promise, and as part of the church, Christ's body in the world, we are called to embody God's promise in a world of broken promises. Our lives bear witness to God's promise kept even if our experience is of human promises broken. Christ's resurrection changes things for us. It gives us knowledge and experience of a promise kept and we can therefore make and keep promises to others and be less devastated by promises broken by others. Christ's resurrection makes all the difference.



**All of them were  
filled with  
the Holy Spirit!**

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, we celebrate the arrival of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, when we received the power and the inspiration that enables us to carry that difference into the world.

Yours in Christ,  
*Barbara*

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling  
**Feeding Those Who Hunger**

## **Per-Capita Apportionment**



The Per Capita amount for 2021 is **\$40.00 per active member**. This amount includes \$8.98 for the Office of General Assembly, \$4.10 for the Synod of the Northeast, and \$26.92 for Presbytery. This money is used to help fund the work of the different levels of the denomination. Please send your apportionment for each person in your family who is a member. You may send it to the church office or directly to Elsie Turqman, and please note that it is for "Per Capita."

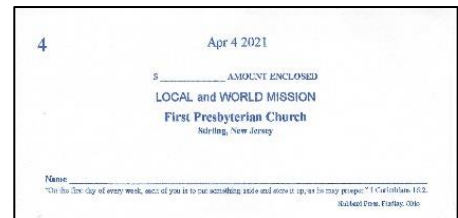
## **Weekly Contributions**



Although we are not worshipping in our sanctuary, there are still financial commitments that need to be met. Whether it's maintaining the buildings and grounds, paying our staff, or keeping up with our mission support, our expenses are ongoing. Please send your weekly offering/pledge to the church office or directly to Elsie Turqman so that we can meet our obligations. Thank you.

## **Special Request from Elsie**

When mailing your offering to the church or to Elsie Turqman, please also include your Church envelope that has your number on the outside. Elsie uses these envelopes in her record keeping. When no envelope is included, she makes up an envelope for the individual. Your help in this would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.



## **Worship Schedule**

At a joint meeting of the Sessions of First Presbyterian Church and Meyersville Presbyterian Church on April 22, an arrangement was approved for worship services in the upcoming months.

First, **online services will continue each week**. The link to the service will be emailed and posted on our website. This email will generally be sent on the Saturday before the Sunday of the service.



Second, when the weather permits, there will be an additional outdoor in-person worship service. Notice of whether or not there will be an outdoor service will be included in the Saturday emails.

And finally, where the outdoor in-person services take place (weather permitting) will be according to the following schedule:

**May 2<sup>nd</sup> will be a communion service at Meyersville at 10 a.m.**  
**All the other Sundays in May (9, 16, 23, 30) will be at Stirling at 10 a.m.**  
**All Sundays in June will be at Meyersville at 10 a.m.**

**Looking Ahead:**

**All the Sundays in July will be at First Presbyterian at 9:30 a.m.**

**All the Sundays in August will be at Meyersville at 9:30 a.m.**

Notices of these dates will be posted on the door of the church so if there is confusion, there will be time to dash to the other church and only be a few minutes late. Latecomers are always welcome!

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

Our Zoom coffee hours continue every **Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m.** (unless otherwise announced) jointly with our friends from Meyersville. For many, these visits online with one another have been fun, therapeutic, and a great way to catch up with one another.

You do not need any special software to join in the fun; just click the link in the email provided each week to participate. You can join with video or just with audio, and you can use your phone, Kindle, tablet, or computer. If you need the link resent, please feel free to contact Janet Parziale at [janetparziale@comcast.net](mailto:janetparziale@comcast.net) or 908-647-2212.

**Deacons' Corner****- Janet Parziale****Mission of the Month - May & June**

The Deacons are once again working with the Church World Service (CWS) and their "Blanket Month Appeal" for our May and June "Mission of the Month" donations. In 2020, CWS delivered 17,000 blankets to people in need in the US and another 1,000 to folks in the Caribbean who were struck by hurricanes and flooding.

The **blankets cost \$10 each** and have been used in many ways – including to help families who have been driven from their homes due to hurricanes, tornados, or other disasters; to keep the homeless warm; to carry personal belongings; to cover a window broken in a storm to keep the cold air out; a privacy divider in an overcrowded refugee facility; and, as a tent or ground covering. As people who trust in the promises of God, we reach out to comfort those who are struggling, who are in crisis, who need our prayers, our support, and our comfort. The gift of

a blanket reminds those who are suffering that God loves them, and that God's people care. From the time we were babies, a warm blanket has meant comfort and love.

We will be collecting during both May and June. **Please send your donation to the church office or directly to Elsie Turqman, and mark the memo "CWS Blanket" or "Mission of the Month."** 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 special mission program.

## Flowers for Our Sanctuary

Rev. Aspinall will continue recording alternately at both churches. **If you would like to have flowers placed on the chancel for services that are recorded at Stirling, please call the church office or Israel Sierra.**



**During May, services will be recorded at Stirling for Sundays, May 9<sup>th</sup> (Mother's Day) and 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

**During June, services will be recorded at Stirling for Sundays, June 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> (Father's Day).**

You may leave a message at the church with the specifics (your name, which Sunday service you would like them for, and who they are given in memory/honor of).

**Since recordings are done on Thursdays**, the flowers need to be picked up by Israel on Wednesdays. Please place your order at least one week prior to the Wednesday pick-up date to allow enough lead time to have them for the service you choose. The cost is still \$30; your check (made payable to: *Flowers on the Ridge*) can be sent to the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Janet Parziale.

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## Know Someone Who Needs a Card?



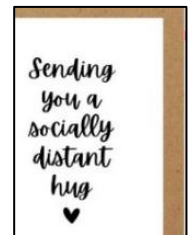
Each week during worship, we remember members, friends, and family who need our prayers for joys and concerns. We know what the power of prayer can do in helping to give strength to all those involved. A Deacon sends cards to let them know they're being thought of and they're in the prayers of the congregation 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](mailto:janetparziale@comcast.net) or 908-647-2212.

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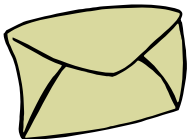
## Need Help? Want to Chat?

As this time of staying at home continues, it is easy to miss 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. 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.




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## Deacons' Fund



The Deacons Fund is used to help the Deacons do their Mission work, and it is funded by donations given so generously by the congregation. You may send your donation to the church or directly to Elsie Turqman. Please note "Deacons' Fund" in the memo section of your check. Thank you very much!

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## Worship Committee

**- Janet Parziale**

### Pentecost Sunday

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will celebrate **Pentecost Sunday**, which commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus. The church will be decorated in symbols of Pentecost, and everyone is encouraged to **wear RED to the outdoor church service in Stirling that day.**





## Liturgists Needed



We are in need of Liturgists each week to do readings for the Zoom worship services. Recordings are done at the church, Stirling or Meyersville, on Thursday afternoons until 6:00 p.m. (other arrangements can be made if necessary).

To sign up, please contact Jan Somers. If Jan calls to ask you to read, please let her know as soon as possible if/when you will be available. Rev. Aspinall will send you a copy of your readings and confirm the location and time for the recording. Thank you!

## Looking to Join in Worship Services Outside?



With our Spring days getting warmer, Stirling and Meyersville will be holding services outside on Sunday mornings—weather permitting. For Stirling, the service will be held on the front lawn. For Meyersville, the service will be held on the lawn at the left side of the church building. We will continue to wear masks and social distance. Feel free to bring a lawn chair. Each church will also have a few folding chairs available for those who are not able to bring one. No sign-ups are necessary to attend. Rev. Aspinall will alternate leading the services at Meyersville and Stirling.

You may call the church office (908-647-1033) on Fridays to find out where the outdoor service will be held for the following Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. We look forward to seeing you there!

The following pictures are from an outdoor service in April:







### Maundy Thursday Service

Through the magic of electronics and Laura Zijdel's expertise, the Last Supper was re-enacted for the Maundy Thursday Zoom service. Although each participant was filmed separately—to maintain social distancing, the end result is amazing.



From left to right, our actors are: Doug Smith, James Thorn, Evelyn Smith, Israel Sierra, Paul Wermuth, Jonathan Bruno, Ali Minaian, Ed Gerecht, Tom Parziale, Sandy Mackay, Ruud Zijdel, David Brownlee, and Daniel Landgren. Sue Hahn (not pictured) was our narrator.

The service can still be viewed by going to the FPC-Stirling webpage, clicking on "Recorded Worship Services," and choosing the April 1, Maundy Thursday service.



## **Mission Programs**

### **Easter Ham Donations**

Thanks to your generous donations, Tom Parziale was able to deliver 8 hams on the Saturday before Palm Sunday. One ham was given to a local family and 7 were brought to the Market Street Mission in Morristown. Your support of this program was very much appreciated!



### **Bridges Outreach Lunch Program**

- Janet Parziale



The Bridges organization is still in need of as many lunches as we can provide. One person is making sandwiches and one person is filling the brown bags. One day each month, the sandwiches and non-perishable goodies are delivered to Summit.

We are always in need of small bottles of water or cartons of juice; snacks of cookies, nuts, Goldfish, pretzels; and small fruit cups or applesauce, pudding, etc. Cash donations are also appreciated to help with the purchase of bread and lunch meat. You can drop items off in Pollard Hall (call the church office to confirm someone is there) or send cash donations to Elsie Turqman.

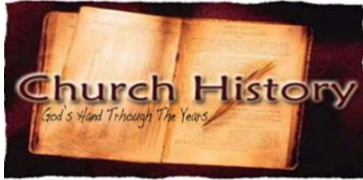


## **Church Website & Facebook Page**

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, Stirling Stuff, Pastor's sermons, Scripture readings, Church history, and more.

## **Church Archives**

**- Jan Somers**

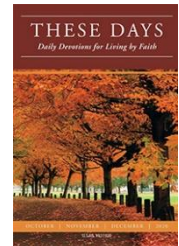


Please continue to forward news clippings, bulletins, programs, pictures, or other memorabilia regarding any member of our church family so our archives can be kept up to date. **Please be sure items are dated and, if possible, the names of church members and/or families are highlighted.** Items can be mailed to the Church (labeled "Archives"), or you can save them until you are in the 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 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**

Although many of us have received the Covid-19 vaccine, we still need to continue wearing a face mask. Elsie Turqman and Jan Somers are still available to sew fabric face masks in different sizes. If you or someone you know needs one, please contact Elsie or Jan.

## **Graduations??**

If someone in your family will be graduating in the upcoming months, please send me the information (school, degree, major, future plans, etc.) for inclusion in the June issue of Stirling Stuff. Thank you.

**- Jan Somers**



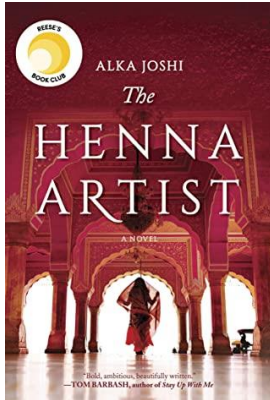
## **National Nurses Day**

**May 6<sup>th</sup> is National Nurses Day.** Please remember all those nurses around the world who are still working tirelessly to help others during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Say an extra prayer and a thank you for all of them!



**Meyersville Book Club****- Jan Somers**

The Book Club's current selection is "**The Henna Artist,**" a novel by Alka Joshi. The group will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m. to discuss the book. Everyone is welcome to join the group; please contact Rev. Aspinall so she will send you the Zoom link.



*Vivid and compelling in its portrait of one woman's struggle for fulfillment in a society pivoting between the traditional and the modern, The Henna Artist opens a door into a world that is at once lush and fascinating, stark and cruel.*

*Escaping from an abusive marriage, seventeen-year-old Lakshmi makes her way alone to the vibrant 1950s pink city of Jaipur. There she becomes the most highly requested henna artist—and confidante—to the wealthy women of the upper class. But trusted with the secrets of the wealthy, she can never reveal her own...*

*Known for her original designs and sage advice, Lakshmi must tread carefully to avoid the jealous gossips who could ruin her reputation and her livelihood. As she pursues her dream of an independent life, she is startled one day when she is confronted by her husband, who has tracked her down these many years later with a high-spirited young girl in tow—a sister Lakshmi never knew she had. Suddenly the caution that she has carefully cultivated as protection is threatened. Still, she perseveres, applying her talents and lifting up those that surround her as she does.*

**Wedding News**

Congratulations to Debra Sprague and John Rubalcava, who were married on April 22<sup>nd</sup> in Seattle, Washington.

In Debra's words: *We had a small gathering at a restaurant on the bay in West Seattle. The weather cooperated, and we held the ceremony outdoors on the deck, with the Seattle skyline in the background. It was really pretty.*

Our best wishes to the happy couple as they begin their new life together!





On Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, the Baptism of Olivia Charlotte Linden, daughter of Kristin and Chris, was celebrated in our sanctuary. Pictured here with Rev. Aspinall are Chris, Olivia, Kristin, and Alice with her much-loved Cabbage Patch doll. Elders Lynn Blakeslee and Susan Brodziak represented the congregation at the service.



Dorothy Simms, long-time friend of our congregation and community, passed away on April 19<sup>th</sup>. A memorial service will be held at our church on Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, for Dottie and her husband, Thad, who passed away on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please continue to keep Dottie and Thad's daughter, Kelly, and their other family and friends in your prayers during this difficult time. Condolences may be sent to:

Kelly & Daniel Petrocelli  
466 Bayberry Lane  
Bridgewater, NJ 08807



**Ongoing Mission Programs:****Items collected for various causes:**

- ✓ 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

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**Please e-mail submissions for the  
May issue of Stirling Stuff to:**  
[jsomers17@hotmail.com](mailto:jsomers17@hotmail.com)  
 by **May 20<sup>th</sup>**. 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.

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**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

**The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling**

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**Why not invite a friend to online church?**

**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.

