



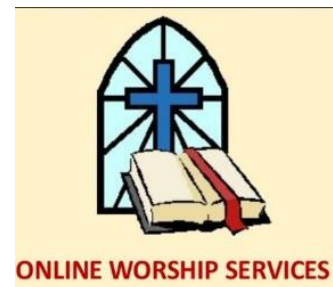
# *Stirling Stuff*

**Volume 65, No. 9**

**October 2021**

Dear Church Family,

I know it's frustrating. We all want things at the church to get back to "normal." We've learned to adjust to Zoom meetings and have found that to meet, and yet stay at home, works out pretty well most of the time. The hard part is worship. Though being outside also works pretty well, it is just not the same. We want our sanctuary back. We want to sit in a pew in our lovely worship space – hear the sermon from the pulpit and the piano and organ not through a speaker. I know.



The Session and I have read the news, listened to what our presbytery has said, checked the latest from the CDC, and have decided to continue, for the moment, to conduct our in-person worship services outside. The on-line services also continue.

This decision was not made lightly, but the welfare of all of us is the top concern. It is one thing to make individual risk assessments in relation to the choices we make in our own lives – whether to wear a mask at the grocery, whether to gather inside with friends, whether to eat at a restaurant – but it is another thing to make those decisions on behalf of others who may be vulnerable themselves or need to be in close contact with others who are vulnerable, or live with young children who cannot be vaccinated yet. The Session wants to protect "the least of these" among us who may need the protection from an illness that we know can be extremely dangerous and even fatal.

The Session has drawn up and approved protocols for coming inside for worship, which includes wearing masks at all times whether vaccinated or not. As long as there are no new surges in the virus, this will come into effect when the weather no longer allows outdoor worship.

Yours in Christ,  
*Barbara*



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

## **Shrine of Saint Joseph 9/11 Memorial Service**



During the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary 9/11 Ecumenical Candlelight Vigil and Memorial Service held at the Shrine of Saint Joseph in Stirling on September 11<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Barbara Peters was presented with a plaque recognizing Rev. Tom Peters for his years of dedicated service to the Long Hill Township ecumenical and interfaith ministry.

The plaque reads:

*With profound gratitude to  
Rev. Dr. Thomas T. Peters  
Pastor, First Presbyterian Church  
Long Hill Township, New Jersey  
1990-2021*

*“What does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly, to love mercy  
and to walk humbly with your God.”  
Micah 6:8*

*Tom lived this; his life and  
love have touched us all.*

## **October Lectionary Readings**

### **October 3: 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Genesis 2:18-24; Psalm 8; Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

### **October 10: 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15; Psalm 90:12-17; Hebrews 4:12-16; 2:5-12; Mark 10:17-31

### **October 17: 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Isaiah 53:4-12; Psalm 91:9-16; Hebrews 5:1-10; 2:5-12; Mark 10:35-45

### **October 24: 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Jeremiah 31:7-9; Psalm 126; Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52

### **October 31: 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Psalm 119:1-8; Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34



## **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 (in your offering envelope) to the church office or directly to Elsie Turqman so that we can meet our obligations. Thank you.

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

The Deacons have selected to continue **Family Promise of Morris County** as the focus of our **Mission of the Month** offering for the month of October. Although Covid-19 has prevented us from physically hosting families at Trinity House, we have been supporting them financially while they are being housed in hotels during the pandemic. The funds are used to purchase food and other necessities. Our church is scheduled to host again on December 12<sup>th</sup>, and donations received through this collection will be used for that purpose.



**If you are not able to attend church, please mail your donation to the church office or directly to Elsie Turqman.** Remember to mark it as "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 program.

**Flowers for Worship**

For the month of October, outdoor services will be held in Meyersville. If you would like to order flowers for any of the outdoor services, please call the church office or Israel Sierra.

During the month of October, Rev. Aspinall will be recording on-line services in Stirling. If you would like to order flowers to be placed on the chancel for any of these services, please call the church office or Israel Sierra. Since recordings are done on Thursdays, the flowers need to be picked up by Israel on Wednesdays. 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.



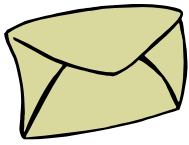
Please leave a message with the specifics (your name, the Sunday service you would like flowers for, and who they are given in memory/honor of). The cost is still \$30; your check (made payable to: Flowers on the Ridge) can be sent to the church office. You also have the option of providing flowers from your garden, etc. If you have any questions, please contact Janet Parziale.

**Know Someone Who Needs a Card?**

We know what the power of prayer can do in helping to give strength to all those involved. If you know of someone who is in need of our 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.

**Deacon Fundraiser: First Presbyterian Church Notecards**

The Deacons are selling packets of **ten cards and envelopes for \$5.00**. The note cards have a pencil sketch of our church on the front; they are blank inside, thus making them useful for any type of communication. If you are interested, please let any Deacon know or leave a message at the church office, and we will get a pack or two to you. They will also be available for purchase following outdoor worship services in Stirling. The money collected will go into the Deacons' Fund. Thank you for your support of this project.

**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 and include your envelope number. Thank you very much!

**Looking Ahead: November Mission of the Month**

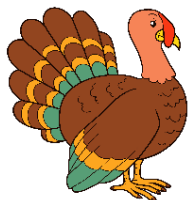
In **November**, our **Mission of the Month will be the Market Street Mission in Morristown**. Each Thanksgiving for many years, our church has stepped up and members have donated their free turkeys to Market Street Mission to help in their effort to provide a delicious Thanksgiving dinner to many homeless individuals. Throughout the Covid-19 Pandemic, they have continued to provide 200 meals each day to those in immediate need.



They also provide recovery programs and vocational training to those rebuilding their lives, community counseling services, and "regularly scheduled meetings and services that give people a solid foundation for stable lives." In 2020, the **Market Street Mission** provided 86,207 meals to the homeless and poor in Morris County, hosted 21,316 shelter stays, and had 36 graduates of their Life Change recovery program.

**This year, we will be supporting the Mission in two ways.** We have confirmed that they are accepting food, so we will collect turkeys on the Saturday morning before Thanksgiving. In addition, monetary gifts through Mission of the Month will help them care for an individual's immediate needs today and their long-term needs for a stable and independent tomorrow.

**Tom Parziale will be at the church from 10-11 a.m. on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, to collect the turkeys (please keep turkeys frozen).** He will then deliver them to Morristown.



The special monetary gift will be collected throughout November during worship services. **If you are not able to come to church, feel free to send your donation to the church office or to Elsie Turqman.** Remember to mark it as "November Mission of the Month" and include your name and/or envelope number if you would like your donation to be recorded. Thank you very much in advance for supporting this special mission program.

**Update: July/August "Mission of the Month" - Bridges Outreach**

During the months of July and August, our **congregation donated \$300 to the Bridges Outreach organization in Summit**. Through the amazing enthusiasm of our church family, we are helping Bridges Outreach continue their mission to "end homelessness through volunteer-driven outreach and individual case management focusing on health, housing, and independence." Their program helps the homeless in New Jersey cities including Summit, Irvington, and Newark. A big **Thank You** to everyone who participated in this mission.



**Worship Committee****- Janet Parziale****Upcoming Worship Schedule**

We will continue to hold services outdoors on Sunday mornings:

- **October services will be held in Meyersville**
- **November services will be held in Stirling**

**There will always be an on-line service available.**

Outdoor services are contingent on weather. Decisions will be made the Saturday before and the congregations will be notified by emails/phone calls if outdoor services are cancelled. We will continue to 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.

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! Notices of these dates will be posted on the church doors 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!

**World Communion Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**On Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, World Communion Sunday**, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper with our sisters and brothers around the world. **Plan to join us in Meyersville at 10:00 a.m. for this special outdoor service.**

**Liturgists Needed**

We need Liturgists each week to do readings for the online worship services. Recordings are done at the church, Stirling or Meyersville, on Thursday afternoons (other arrangements can be made if necessary).

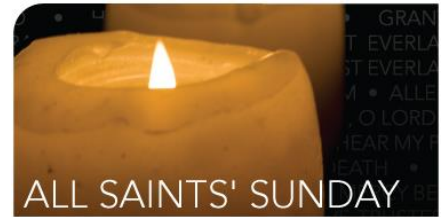
To sign up, please contact Jan Somers. If Jan contacts you to ask you to read, please let her know as soon as possible if/when you will be available. Rev. Aspinall will send you a copy of your readings and confirm the location and time for the recording. Thank you.

**Reformation Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Reformation Sunday** is 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.

**All Saints' Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>**

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate All Saints' Sunday during morning worship in Stirling. If you would like to remember someone special in your life who has passed away in the past year, please **complete the following form and return it to the Church office by October 31<sup>st</sup>**. As in the past, a candle will be lit as each name is read aloud during the service.



Please cut here and return the completed bottom section.

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**All Saints' Sunday, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>**

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



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

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

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Please print clearly

**Please fill out this form and send it to the church office by Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. Or, you may email it to Paulette at [secretary@fpcstirling.org](mailto:secretary@fpcstirling.org)**

## Outdoor Worship

Following are pictures from recent outdoor worship services in Stirling, with Rev. Barbara Aspinall preaching. Please join us for an upcoming service. We will be worshipping in Meyersville for the month of October.



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## Mission Programs

### Bridges Outreach Lunch Program

- Janet Parziale



The Bridges Outreach organization is still in need of as many lunches as we can provide. During the pandemic, one person is making sandwiches and one person is filling the brown bags. The sandwiches, drinks, and non-perishable goodies are delivered to Summit monthly.

We are always in need of small bottles of water or cartons of juice; snacks of cookies, nuts, Goldfish, pretzels; and small fruit cups, 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. Thank you.

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## **Looking Ahead: Thanksgiving Turkey Donations**



As mentioned in the Deacons' Corner report, we will once again be collecting turkeys to be donated to the Market Street Mission in Morristown for Thanksgiving. At this time of year, there is great need for food donations, and organizations provide meals to a larger number of people.

If you qualify for a free turkey from the supermarket and do not plan to use it, please consider bringing it to the **church on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, from 10-11 a.m.** **Tom Parziale will be there to collect the turkeys** and deliver them to Morristown. **Please keep the turkeys frozen.** Thank you very much in advance for supporting this mission program.




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## **Facilities & Property Management**

**- Jan Somers**

In the September issue of Stirling Stuff, I mentioned the hard work done by our “weed picking” volunteers and all the buds that were about to burst. Well, they have opened and look beautiful!




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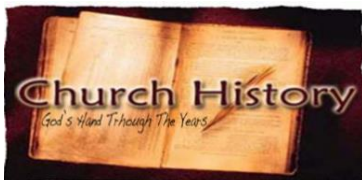
## **Church Website & Facebook Page**

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.

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## **Church Archives**

**- Jan Somers**



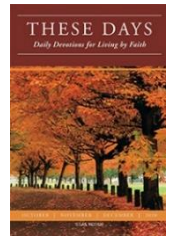
Please continue to save news clippings, bulletins, programs, pictures, or other memorabilia regarding any member of our church family so our archives can be kept up to date. **Please be sure items are dated and, if possible, the names of church members and/or families are highlighted.** Items can be 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 copies of this devotional booklet. If you would like a copy, please contact the church office, and you can pick it up or one can be mailed to you.



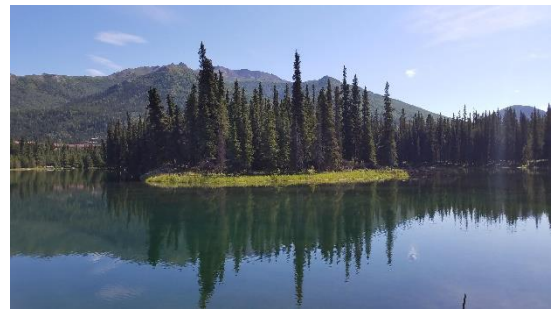
## **Women's Gathering**

### **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE SYNOD OF THE NORTHEAST - VIRTUAL 2021 FALL GATHERING**

Divine Renewal Theme: "Behold I am Doing a New Thing"

Isaiah 43:18-19: "Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

Dates: Friday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.  
Sat, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

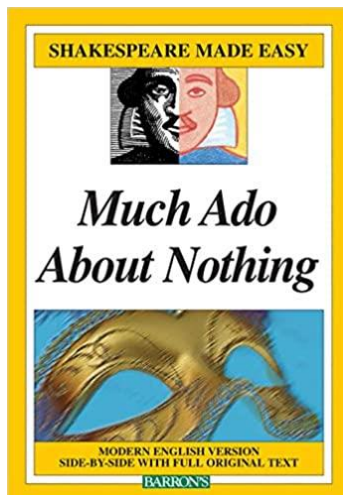


To register: Call Lorraine Cuffy at 908-436-9579

## **Meyersville Book Club**

**- Jan Somers**

The Book Club's current selection is Shakespeare's *"Much Ado About Nothing."* It is the Barron's "Shakespeare Made Easy" edition and is edited by Christina Lacie. The group will meet via Zoom on Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m. to discuss the book. Everyone is welcome to join the group; please contact Rev. Aspinall so she can send you the Zoom link. Libraries are open and the book is available in several different formats.



*"Much Ado About Nothing" is a comic play about two pairs of Italian lovers. It focuses on the character of Claudio, who has recently returned from war and pledged to marry Hero. However, the scheming Don John decides to interfere and successfully convinces Claudio that Hero has been unfaithful to him, leading to a series of misunderstandings and comic antics before the truth finally comes to light.*

*However, this storyline is often upstaged by the play's subplot, in which two of Shakespeare's wittiest and most beloved characters, Benedick and Beatrice, gradually fall in love with each other in spite of their avowed mutual scorn for love, marriage and – most importantly – each other!*

*"Much Ado About Nothing" is one of the best-known comedies by William Shakespeare, who is widely considered to be one of the most influential writers in the history of the English language.*

**Visiting Nurse Association Rummage Sale (VNA)**

The VNA Rummage Sale is returning to the Far Hills Fairgrounds on October 1-3, following several cancellations due to Covid-19. The Visiting Nurse Association has been renamed *Atlantic Visiting Nurse*, but they still serve the same needs:

- ✓ Senior Citizens
- ✓ Hospice
- ✓ Adult Day Care
- ✓ Home Health
- ✓ Private Care

**World Food Day, October 16<sup>th</sup>****- Jan Somers**

The theme for **World Food Day 2021** is "Our actions are our future - better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life."

In 1979, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations designated October 16<sup>th</sup> **World Food Day**. It has been celebrated annually since 1981 as a day of action dedicated to tackling global hunger. Collective action across 150 countries is what makes World Food Day one of the most celebrated days of the UN calendar. Hundreds of events and outreach

activities bring together governments, businesses, NGOs, the media, and the general public. They promote worldwide awareness and action for those who suffer from hunger and for the need to ensure healthy diets for all. Food is seen as a basic human right, yet one in nine people globally experience chronic hunger.

Join the global movement to end hunger within our lifetime. 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 our local food bank, the Bridges Outreach Program, and the Market Street Mission are good ways to help.

**Ongoing Mission Programs:**

Family Promise of Morris County  
 Bridges Outreach Lunch Program  
 Local Food Pantry

Please e-mail submissions for the  
 October issue of Stirling Stuff to:  
[jsomers17@hotmail.com](mailto:jsomers17@hotmail.com)  
 by October 21<sup>st</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.

**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

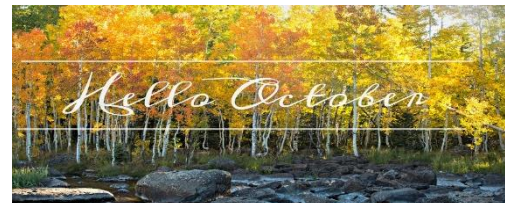
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**Why not invite a friend to church.**

**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.

*Do this in  
 remembrance  
 of me.  
 Luke 22.19*



**World  
 Communion  
 Sunday**