



Stirling Stuff

Volume 66, No. 6

June 2022

Dear Church Family,

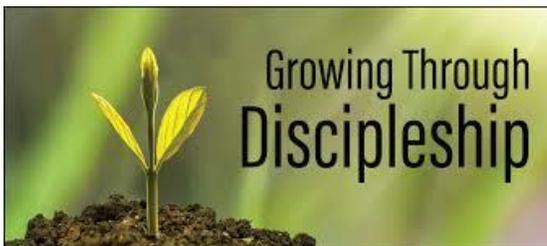
In her book, *Speaking of Sin*, Barbara Brown Taylor tells the story of a classmate in seminary, a Presbyterian from Lebanon, who “threw a theological temper tantrum during his first semester in seminary. ‘All you Americans care about is justification!’ he howled. ‘You love sinning and being forgiven, but no one seems to want off that hamster wheel. Have you ever heard of sanctification? Is anyone interested in learning to sin a little less?’”



“Learning to sin a little less” or “sanctification” is the everyday life of a Christian disciple. We begin each day with the intention of making that day, to the best of our ability, a day that reflects our thankfulness to God for the love God gives us. This gratitude, this thankfulness, is reflected in the many mundane, everyday things we do. When we say “good morning” to family members at the breakfast table, we do so because we are thankful for the blessings and joys that the gift of human love and family relationships give us. When we take out the garbage, we make sure there are no recyclables in there – a choice that reflects our gratitude for God’s gift of the beauty and bounty of the earth and our intention to take care of this gift on behalf of the future health of our planet. When we are honest and conscientious in our daily work, we are demonstrating our gratitude to God for good work to do – work that brings a sense of accomplishment and the financial resources to have a comfortable home to live in and food to eat and the opportunity to educate our children. Sharing our financial resources with others is also a way to express our thankfulness to God. When we are patient and kind with co-workers, friends, and strangers, we are acting on our thankfulness to God.

The life of discipleship is rarely dramatic, glamorous, or even terribly obvious to others. But it is the life both given to us by God and the one to which God calls us. Whether we call it “sinning a little less” or “sanctification” or “Christian discipleship,” it is a life formed by and filled with thankfulness to God.

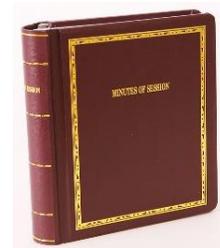
Yours in Christ,
Barbara



The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger

Session Minutes Approved

Our Clerk of Session, Susan Brodziak, has been notified that the Session minutes for the past year have been approved, without exception, by Presbytery. This **makes several consecutive years that our Session minutes have been approved without exception, which is a substantial accomplishment.** Our thanks to Susan for the outstanding job she has done keeping our church records in good order as our Clerk of Session



**All of them were
filled with
the Holy Spirit!**
Acts 2.4

Pentecost Sunday, June 5th

Seven weeks after Easter each year, we celebrate Pentecost. Its roots are in Judaism, for Pentecost was (and still is) a Jewish festival. Occurring fifty days after Passover and linked to both Israel's agricultural cycle and its religious history, it celebrated the completion of the spring harvest and commemorated the giving of the Law to Moses on Mt. Sinai.

For Christians, Pentecost celebrates the coming of God's Holy Spirit to the followers of Jesus fifty days after Good Friday and Easter, fulfilling a promise made by the risen Christ. The result was the beginning of the post-Easter mission of the early Christian movement.

The story of Pentecost is in the second chapter of the book of Acts, which is filled with richly symbolic language drawn from the Jewish tradition. We are told that the Spirit came upon the gathered disciples with the sound of a "rushing wind" and with "tongues of fire" resting on each of them. In the Hebrew Bible, wind and fire are both associated with the presence of God. In Hebrew, the same word means both "wind" and "spirit," as in the creation story where the divine wind (or spirit) hovers over the primordial waters like a hen broods over her precious chicks.

All are invited to be part of our Pentecost celebration at Meyersville on June 5th; **remember to wear something red.**

Twelve Baskets Food Pantry Is Moving to Our Church!

Our local Food Pantry, Twelves Baskets, currently housed at All Saints' Church in Millington, will be temporarily moving to our church for the months of July, August, and September.

Jointly sponsored by our church, All Saints', and Meyersville, the food pantry has been serving guests two Saturday mornings per month. Shelf stable food as well as meat, dairy products, eggs, and fresh produce are available for food insecure families in our area.



Some of the food will be stored at our church, and guests will come to our church on the Saturday mornings. Volunteer help will be needed to set up the tables and put out the food in Pollard Hall as well as serve our guests on the days the pantry is open. Help is also needed in picking up food from the distribution center in Hillside. There is plenty to do and the volunteer opportunities are well organized. **Please contact Lynn Blakeslee or Barbara Aspinall if you would like to contribute an hour or two of your time.**



Discernment Event - Tuesday, June 14th, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Our Discernment Team has been working with the Presbytery's Church Development Team's Rev. Scott Foster in thinking about the future of our church. They have been reviewing the discernment work done two years ago and are now ready to present to all who are interested what they have learned so far and to incorporate everyone's thoughts about the future. The group will be brainstorming on the subject of "where God is among us now and where and to what God is calling our congregation in the future."

We will be gathering by Zoom at 7 pm on June 14th. If you are unable to access Zoom, stations will be set up at the church or please join a friend at their home. Everyone is invited and, indeed, encouraged to participate. A Zoom link will be emailed a day or two in advance of the meeting. **Please indicate your interest in participating by emailing secretary@fpcstirling.org or calling the church.** Paulette will assemble the email distribution list.

Building A Welcome for All God's People: LGBTQIA+ People and the Church

Saturday, June 11th, 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

On Saturday, June 11th, the Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains will be hosting a very special event led by Brian Ellison of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians. The event will offer a biblical and theological foundation and practical help in learning to welcome all God's people into our Presbyterian fellowship including LGBTQIA+ people. The seminar will consider how Presbyterians have historically thought about issues of sexual orientation and gender identity and how we have changed over time. There will be discussion of hospitality and welcome and how our words and deeds can strengthen our congregation and our common life, faithfully extending the love of Christ to all.



There will be a worship service at 9:30 a.m., followed by presentations and discussion. Lunch will be provided. Please contact Barbara Aspinnall if you can participate, and she will register you.

Shared Indoor Services

- Rev. Aspinnall

The Meyersville Presbyterian Church and the First Presbyterian Church of Stirling will continue joint indoor worship services. We will wear face masks, social distance, and sign-in for purposes of contact tracing, if needed. **In June, the services will be held in Meyersville.**



If you need a ride to either church, please feel free to call upon a Deacon or fellow church member; we are happy to help. Reminder--at Meyersville, there is an elevator that can be used instead of walking up the front steps to the sanctuary. Please plan to join us at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

Our online services will also continue each week and are accessible through a link delivered by email and on the church website, www.fpcstirling.org. The service can be viewed at any time. DVDs of the service are also available and may be requested through Janet Parziale.

Travnicek Memorial Handbells

The joint-church handbell ringers played during morning worship on Sunday, May 8th, performing "Canon of Grace." Our thanks to the choir members and director, Tatiana, for all their time and work preparing the beautiful music they shared with the congregation.



Stewardship

Weekly Contributions



Whether you worship in person or on-line, please try to keep your pledges current. Financial commitments still need to be met. Expenses for maintaining the buildings and grounds, paying our staff, or keeping up with our mission support are ongoing. You can send your weekly offering/pledge (in your offering envelope) to the church office or directly to Elsie Turqman. Thank you!

Deacons' Corner

- Janet Parziale

Mission of the Month - June - Family Promise of Morris County



The Mission of the Month for June is Family Promise of Morris County. Due to a delay in receiving a funding grant, Family Promise was only able to host one family of four during May. However, they expect the grant to be finalized shortly, enabling them to begin accepting more families into the program again. In May, we provided \$75 in gas and ShopRite gift cards to the family of four being housed.

Although our next hosting responsibility is not until October, we wanted our mission giving for May and June to cover both May and October. Due to Covid, the families will continue to be housed in motels, and support churches are asked to provide gift cards for food, gas, and other necessities. Families are always very appreciative of whatever we provide.

Feel free to use the special envelopes available in the church pews or send your gift directly to the church or Elsie Turqman. Please note "Mission of the Month," and remember to include your name and/or your envelope number if you would like your donation to be recorded.

Thank you for being a part of our mission to end family homelessness!

One Great Hour of Sharing Mission - Update



During the months of March and April, we held our annual One Great Hour of Sharing collection, and our church responded **wonderfully with an offering of \$265**. Our gift to One Great Hour of Sharing will enable the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and help to empower the poor and oppressed. Thank you to everyone who donated generously to this special mission program.

Special Fellowship Hour

Following worship service on May 15th, the Deacons hosted a special **Fellowship Hour to bid farewell to Evelyn Smith and Israel Sierra, Jr.**, who are moving to Long Island at the end of May. Their new address is:

1103 Applewood Ct., Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776

Evelyn and Israel have been an important part of our congregation for many years, helping in countless ways, and they will be greatly missed!

During the celebration, Paul Wermuth read a “Proclamation” from Long Hill Township and Mayor, Matthew Dorsi, recognizing Israel’s many years of service to the township as a volunteer on the First Aid Squad and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). In attendance at the special event was Bob English, representing the Long Hill Township First Aid Squad.



Flowers to Beautify Our Sanctuary

With spring in full gear, our gardens are full of beautiful blooms! Whether they are from flowering plants or big flowering bushes, would you consider sharing a bunch or two for a Sunday morning service in July at FPC? Are you the artistic one who enjoys arranging flowers from your garden into a vase to be placed on the chancel at church? Or do you have lots of flowers and would prefer that someone else do the arranging? These flowers can come from your garden, or you can pick from a beautiful selection at ShopRite in their flower department. Deacon Kim Ridgway (908-458-0333) loves to do arrangements and could help you with that if you call her ahead of the Sunday you select.



Throughout June, online worship service recordings will be done at FPC. If you would like to provide flowers for display in the recordings, you can bring them in on Monday or Tuesday and take them home on Thursday or Friday, following the recording. If you contact Kim ahead of time, she (or another Deacon) will take care of arranging them into one or two vases. If you need greens to fill out your arrangement, there are beautiful ferns along the side of the church by the Memorial Garden walkway.

If you are interested in sharing your flowers for a Sunday service, please call the office (908-647-1030) so the church secretary, Paulette, can get the information (your name and who you are sharing the flowers in honor or memory of) into the weekly bulletin. Thank you very much in advance for helping beautify our sanctuary with wonders of spring and summer!

Fellowship Hour is Returning in July!

Fellowship Hour was always a very special part of our Sunday mornings prior to the Covid pandemic. It was a chance to catch-up with our friends and folks we do not see often during the week. Since the pandemic, we have only had a few special ones (such as Heritage Sunday, the Memorial Garden Rededication and, recently, our Farewell to Izzy and Evelyn in May).



Great news! **We are bringing back these wonderful gatherings following worship services in July at FPC.** We hope to have our gatherings on the front lawn. If you would like to provide some goodies to share, there is always a Deacon who would be glad to help you set up the table and show you where cups, plates, and napkins are stored. During the summer, we plan to keep it simple and will not be serving hot drinks. Juice/Lemonade/Iced Tea and water are perfect for a warm summer morning. The Deacons plan to have powdered lemonade or iced tea available and can help you prepare a pitcher full.



Please consider helping with this important part of our church life by signing up to host one yourself or with a partner or simply donating money to be used by the Deacons to provide some delicious goodies for the morning. If you wish to donate money, please give it to a Deacon or place it in the offering plate in an envelope marked "Fellowship Hour." Again, if you need help setting up, please feel free to ask any Deacon or other member of the congregation. Our Fellowship Hours are fun to do and are thoroughly appreciated by everyone. Feel free to **sign up in Pollard Hall or call Deacon Marie Darby (908-647-0714) and let her know which Sunday you would like to host.**

Looking Ahead -Mission of the Month - July and August

For July and August, the Deacons have selected **Twelve Baskets Food Pantry** as the **Mission of the Month**. Twelve Baskets Food Pantry is dedicated to providing assistance to those who are food insecure in the Long Hill Township area and is supported by All Saints' Episcopal Church in Millington, Meyersville Presbyterian Church, First Presbyterian Church of Stirling, and Long Hill Township CERT. The program has been a great success; within the first quarter of 2022, they have distributed about 5,612 pounds of food.



Feel free to use the special envelopes available in the church pews or send your gift directly to the church or Elsie Turqman. Please note "Mission of the Month," and remember to include your name and/or your envelope number if you would like your donation to be recorded. The dollars collected will allow the folks at Twelve Baskets to purchase some much needed items. Thank you for being a part of our mission to end local hunger!

Really Looking Ahead - Mission of the Month - September and October

The Deacons are once again working with Church World Service (CWS) and their "**Blanket Month Appeal**" for our **September and October Mission of the Month**. In the past few years, CWS has distributed thousands of woolen blankets throughout the world, and they are hoping to do the same this year. The blankets, which cost \$10 each, have been used in many ways – 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; and as a tent or ground covering to name just a few ways. **We will be collecting \$10 per blanket during both September and October.** We hope you will support this worthy endeavor.



Feel free to drop your donation in the offering plate on Sunday mornings or send your check to the church office (158 Central Ave, Stirling, NJ 07980) or directly to Elsie Turqman. Please mark the memo on your check "CWS Blanket Appeal." 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.

Know Someone Who Needs a Card?

We know what the power of prayer can do in helping 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 or 908-647-2212.



ShopRite Gift Cards



For the past several years, the church has been selling ShopRite gift cards (known as our *Voucher Program*). For every \$100 sold, the church earns \$5; that is, we get 5% of all sales. Over the course of a year, at times that has translated to more than a \$1,000 earned.

The gift cards come in \$20, \$50, and \$100 denominations. They never expire; you can continue to use them until the balance is used up. To purchase these gift cards for yourself or as a gift, **please contact Yvonne Fletcher. She will be more than happy to help you out with your purchase.** Thank you in advance for helping in this special way.

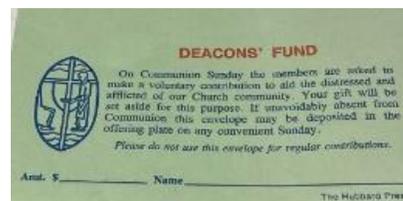
Deacons Fundraiser: First Presbyterian Church Notecards



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. Proceeds will go into the Deacons' Fund. Thank you for your support of this project.

Deacons' Fund

The Deacons' Fund is supported by the contributions and offerings so generously given by you in the **little green envelopes found in the church pews**. In recent years, this fund has been used to purchase the name plaques on the memoriam boards in Pollard Hall, candles and oil for the sanctuary, stamps for cards sent to the congregation, provisions for the Bridges Lunch program, special items like the cable for the remote TV used in Pollard Hall, and support for some of the mission projects of the Deacons. Every dollar is greatly appreciated and put to good use.



You may send your donation directly to Elsie Turqman or use the little green envelopes in the pew on Sunday morning. Please note "Deacons' Fund" in the memo section of your check. Thank you very much!

Worship Committee

- Janet Parziale

Sacrament of Holy Communion and Non-Perishable Food Collection, June 5th in Meyersville

We will celebrate the Lord's Super in **Meyersville on June 5th**. Please remember **to bring a non-perishable food item or monetary donation for the "Twelve Baskets Food Pantry,"** housed at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Millington. Our church has been working along with Meyersville and All Saints' churches to make this program available to those local residents who need assistance. For more information, please speak with Lynn Blakeslee or Rev. Aspinall.

If you or someone you know is in need of food or other non-grocery items, please call the food bank office at 908-647-0067 (Ext. 4) and leave a confidential message.



Food items: baby food, applesauce, shelf-stable milk, cold cereal, crackers, chips, coffee, dried herbs and spices, canola oil, olive oil

Non-food items: toiletries, diapers, baby wipes, paper towels, toilet paper, household cleaners

Music Sunday, June 26th

On Sunday, June 26th, we will share in a **special Music Sunday worship service in Meyersville**. We will sample and learn about hymns from the history of hymnody – from the ancient, chanted psalms to plainsongs to hymns written in our own day. Everyone is invited to join us for this special service.



June Lectionary Readings

June 5th - Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21; Genesis 11:1-9; Psalms 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:14-17; Acts 2:1-21; John 14:8-17 (25-27)

June 12th - Trinity Sunday

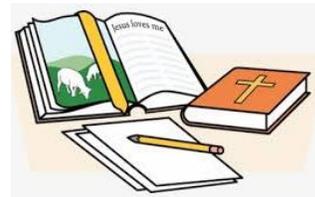
Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalms 8; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

June 19th - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:1-4 (5-7), 8-15; Psalms 42-43

June 26th - 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Psalms 77:1-2, 11-20



Liturgists Needed for Worship Services



We need Liturgists each week to do readings for both the in-person and on-line worship services. **For the month of June, we will be worshipping in Meyersville; recordings will be done in Stirling,** typically on Thursday early evenings (other arrangements can be made, if needed).

To sign up, please contact Jan Somers. If Jan contacts you about reading, 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 on-line recording. Thank you.

Rededication of the Memorial Garden

On Sunday, May 1st, we rededicated our Memorial Garden at the end of our morning worship service. Prior to the Covid pandemic, the garden had been spruced up and beautified. It is a quiet, peaceful place to sit, pray, or reflect.

The names of those members and friends of our congregation interred in the garden were read aloud during the ceremony:



Frederick McGreedy
Lillian and Edward Wilkinson
Madeline, Bill, and Brian Hahl
Katherine and Roger Schwartz
Joan Dennick
Rene' Phelan
Anna and Edwin Gerecht, Sr.
Ralph Malfatone
Eunice Bille'
Ellen and Robert Easty
Lynne Combs





“Blessing of the Animals” Worship Service

On Sunday, May 22nd, we celebrated a *Blessing of the Animals* worship service for the first time. A big thank you to our group of talented artists who designed, painted, and hung the 2-sided banner in front of the church, announcing this special service: Jan Somers; her daughter, Denise; granddaughters, Paige and Kylin; and Janet and Tom Parziale.





On the morning of May 22nd, a last-minute rain shower forced the service to be moved indoors. As a result, we had a tortoise, several dogs, and 2 guinea pigs attending church that day, along with a picture of a dog and 3 cats. Rev. Aspinall “visited” with each pet and gave them a special blessing. The weather kept some worshippers away, but it was a successful inaugural event.





Mission Programs

Bridges Outreach Lunch Program

- Janet Parziale

The Bridges Outreach organization is in need of as many lunches as we can provide. Currently, one person is making sandwiches and one person is filling the brown bags. The children from the Montessori School often decorate the bags and write messages to the recipients. 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 office to confirm that someone is there) or send monetary donations to Elsie Turqman.

Facilities & Property Management

Church Grounds Spring Clean Up

- Tom Parziale



Thank you to everyone who helped us have a successful spring clean-up. The accomplishments over the past few weeks have been amazing. The church grounds look better than they have in a while!

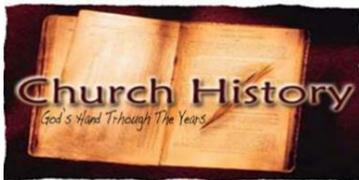
Our weeding, mulching, trimming, planting, and cleaning crew included: Lynn Blakeslee, Sue and Paul Wermuth, Dale Monetti (washed the church sign), Janet and Tom Parziale, Ed Gerecht and the Boy Scouts, Israel Sierra, Evelyn Smith, and Joyce Koenig; Fernando Peraza (Manse Tenant/Mava Landscaping) donated lots of mulch for the project; Eric Calabrese (Top Notch Powerwashing) power washed the front entrance to the sanctuary.



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 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 and put them in the "Archives" mailbox outside the church offices. Thank you.

Pop-Top Can Tabs

- Jan Somers



Please continue to save pop-top can tabs, any size. **The can tabs are sold by weight to recycling centers, and the proceeds are donated to Ronald McDonald House Charities**—a nonprofit family and children's charity dedicated to supporting families with sick children in their time of need. You can give them to me any Sunday morning, or I can pick them up from you. Thank you for your ongoing support of this program!

Congratulations Newlyweds!

On Saturday, May 14th, Alison Peters and Justin Charity were married in our sanctuary. Ali, daughter of Revs. Tom and Barbara Peters, and sister of Trevor, grew up in our congregation. The couple will be heading back to Appleton, Wisconsin where Ali is the Assistant Minister at Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

Congratulations and best wishes to the happy couple and their families on this wonderful occasion!

**Watchung Hills Regional High School Educator of the Year**

Congratulations to Chrissie DiBartolo, who was selected as the Watchung Hills Regional High School Educator of the Year. Chrissie, who has been teaching for 15 years, currently teaches calculus and pre-calculus. In the past, she has also taught geometry and algebra II and III. She serves on the Watchung Hills Appeals Committee, the National Honor Society Review Committee, and the Technology Committee.

Daughter of Janet and Tom Parziale, and sister of David, Chrissie grew up in our congregation. She and her husband, Bill, are parents to six-year-old twins, Samantha and Thomas DeBartolo. We are all so very proud of this special accomplishment!

Chrissie was interviewed for an article that appeared in the Echoes' Sentinel and is posted on our Church website. (or click this link [Echoes Article for WHRHS Educator of the Year](#))

Congratulations Graduates!

Our congregation has many graduates to celebrate this year! Our congratulations and best wishes to each of them as they move on to the next step in their future!

Marie Darby's granddaughter, **Katie**, is graduating from Ridge High School, Basking Ridge. Katie will be attending West Virginia University to study Criminal Justice. Proud mom is Marie's daughter, Dawn (Darby) Desmelyk.



Lynn Rosol's grandson, **Anthony**, is graduating from the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. Anthony will continue on towards his Masters; his ultimate goal is to become a doctor. Proud parents are Fran and Jennie (Rosol) Piccoli.

Lynn and Jeff Blakeslee's son, **Garrett**, is graduating from NJ Institute of Technology (NJIT) in Newark with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Technology.



Pictured here: Ian, Lynn, Garrett, and Jeff Blakeslee



Jan Somers is celebrating 2 graduates in her family this year:

Grandson, **Aidan**, is graduating from North Hunterdon High School in Annandale. He has not yet finalized his plans.

Granddaughter, **Paige**, is graduating from the 8th grade at Ethel Hoppock Middle School in Asbury and will be attending North Hunterdon High School.

Proud mom is Jan's daughter, Denise.



Elsie Turqman also has 2 graduates to celebrate this year:

Grandson, **Ian** Kenny, is graduating from Rutgers University with a degree in Criminal Justice. Proud mom is Elsie's daughter, Louisa.

Granddaughter, **Victoria** Turqman, is graduating from Bloomfield College with a degree in Computer Science. Proud dad is Elsie's son, Eric.



Fernando and Nela Matamoros (our manse tenants) are celebrating with their son, **Gabriel**, on his graduation from Rutgers University with a Masters in K-12 Mathematics Education.



Happy Birthday Wishes

Jean Hoffman will be celebrating her 94th birthday on June 2nd; I'm sure she'd love to hear from her church friends.

Her address is: Chelsea at Warren
274 King George Road
Warren, NJ 07059



In Remembrance

We were saddened to learn that Beth VanBrunt passed away on Saturday, May 21st, at the Center for Hope Hospice Care in Scotch Plains. Please keep Doug and their family and friends in your prayers during this difficult time. A memorial service will be scheduled for a later date. Condolences may be sent to:

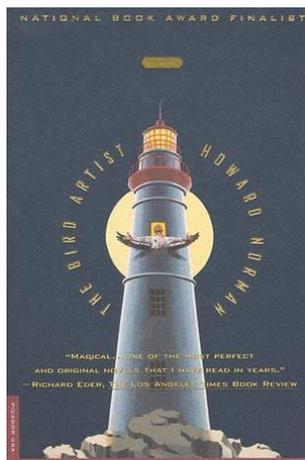
Doug Garno, 95 Sherwood Lane, Stirling, NJ 07980

Beth is pictured here helping out at our 2019 Fish & Chips Dinner.



Former long-time member of our congregation, Ken Crawford, passed away on May 24th. Please keep Ken's wife, Joyce, daughters, Celeste and Dawn, grandchildren Jacob and Kayden, and other family and friends in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Condolences may be sent to Joyce and her family at:
4744 Cheryl Dr., Bethlehem, PA 18017



Meyersville Book Club

- Jan Somers

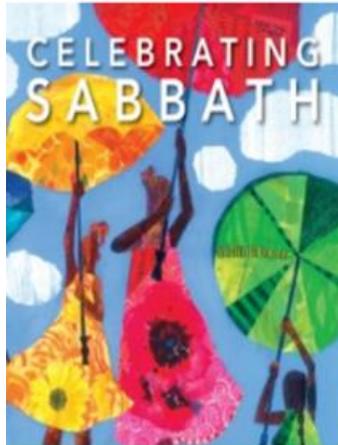
The Book Club's current selection is, "**The Bird Artist**," a novel by Howard Norman. The group will meet via Zoom on Wednesday, June 22nd, 7:30 p.m. to discuss the book. Everyone is welcome to join the group; please contact Rev. Aspinall so she can send you the Zoom link. The book is available at local libraries.

The Bird Artist begins in 1911. Its narrator, Fabian Vas is a bird artist: he draws and paints the birds of Witless Bay, his remote Newfoundland coastal village home. In the first paragraph of his tale, Fabian reveals that he has murdered the village lighthouse keeper, Botho August. Later, he confesses who and what drove him to his crime--a measured, profoundly engrossing story of passion, betrayal, guilt, and redemption between men and women.

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast

We received the following information regarding an upcoming Bible Study program sponsored by Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast. It will be held at Stony Point Center, June 16-18. There is a short Zoom option for those who would like to participate but are unable to attend in person.

The 2022-2023 PW/Horizons Bible Study
Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight
Stony Point Center June 16-18, 2022
Led by the Author, Rev. Dr. Carol Bechtel



In this Bible study—with passages from Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy, Isaiah, Matthew, Luke, and Acts—we'll consider Sabbath:

- ◆ as a celebration, not a day of dreary formality
- ◆ as God's intent for all of creation that includes busy women too
- ◆ as one day of the week, perhaps a Sunday
- ◆ as a time to surrender unhealthy striving and frantic busyness, and instead trust that God will provide
- ◆ as a reminder that life is precious and working too much is against God's plans for our precious lives
- ◆ as a day devoted to community and justice and not exclusively to self-care.

Ultimately, Sabbath reminds us to honor God who honors us by giving us a day each week to reset our pace, our priorities, and our lives.

The Reverend Dr. Carol Bechtel is professor of Old Testament at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, MI. She grew up on a farm in Illinois, attended Hope College, Western Theological Seminary and Yale University. She has published a commentary on Esther, and many will remember her PW Bible Study *Above and Beyond: Hearing God's Call in Jonah and Ruth*. Carol lives in Holland, Michigan. She and her husband have four children and eight grandchildren. Her hobbies include singing, cooking and gardening, and playing the Celtic harp.



The full program begins at 4pm on THURSDAY and ends after lunch on SATURDAY. Registration and check-in will start on Thursday at 3:00 PM. Cost covers 6 meals, a single or double room in either Gilmore Sloane House or a Lodge (your choice), and a program fee of \$40, which includes a copy of the study.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
Registration Form
Horizon Bible Study June 16-18, 2022 (Thurs-Sat)

Name _____ Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
 E-mail _____
 Special Dietary or Other Needs: _____

Gilmore Sloane House Single \$530 Lodge Single \$448 Commuter \$240
 Gilmore Sloane House Double \$410 Lodge Double \$328 Add'L Overnight Stay \$144

Roommate for Double _____ Dates: Early Arrival _____ Late Departure _____
 Check enclosed (payable to PW- Synod of the Northeast). Please mail registration and check to:
 Nancy Lack, 15 Lincoln Ave, Florham Park, NJ 07932 e-mail: donnarahmann@comcast.net
 Unable to come? Check here _____ to be included in a 2 hour ZOOM on Friday, June 17th from 10am-Noon.

Ongoing Mission Programs:

Bridges Outreach Lunch Program
 Family Promise of Morris County
 Twelve Baskets Food Pantry

Please e-mail submissions for the
 Summer 2022 issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
 by June 23rd. 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

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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.

