



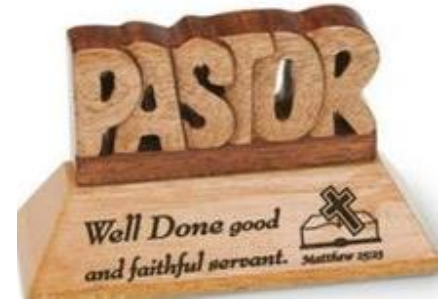
Stirling Stuff

Volume 66, No. 10

November 2022

Dear Church Family,

The time has come for me to retire. Ministry is something I have loved doing. It has been an honor to serve the First Presbyterian congregation over the past two years and help the FPC family grieve and move ahead after Rev. Tom's retirement and passing. I am deeply appreciative of your welcome and support for me during this time. I have greatly enjoyed working with all of you in the FPC family.



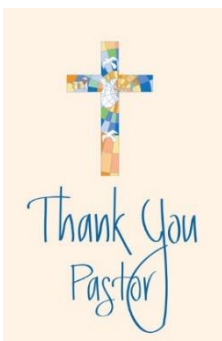
Beginning with my ordination in 1985, I have served five different churches in various capacities as well as many others as pulpit supply while raising three young children. But now I am ready to start the next chapter in my life. February 28th will be my last day serving both the First Presbyterian and Meyersville Churches.

The Sessions of First Presbyterian and Meyersville have been meeting together to make plans for the future. They have decided to call a full-time pastor together – someone who will serve both churches. The Sessions have formed a search committee and have been working with Presbytery's Committee on Ministry liaison, Sharon Guthrie, who has successfully assisted a number of churches with the pastor selection process. Sherry will help guide our search committee through the process of finding a new pastor to lead and serve these two wonderful and devoted congregations as they seek God's vision for their futures.

I look forward to these remaining months at FPC. Along with the regular day-to-day and week-to-week ministry that we share, there is still much we will need to do together – a stewardship campaign, Advent and Christmas, election of new officers to the church boards, the annual meeting, and becoming familiar with new technology to live-stream our worship services. All of this leads us to taking the next step in the life of this vibrant congregation. Thank you for the chance to help lead your congregation during these past years.

Yours in Christ,

Barbara



The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger

Special Congregational Meeting

Special Congregational Meeting

A Special Meeting of the Congregations of both Stirling and Meyersville was held on October 30th. Rev. Aspinall announced that she will be retiring from both congregations, and her last day will be February 28, 2023. She introduced members of the joint search committee who have already begun the search process. Laura Zijdel from MPC and Ed Gerecht from FPC gave more details and answered questions on the committee's work to this point. If a new minister has not been approved by the end of February, the committee will retain a Bridge Pastor for the duration until a new minister is found.

Ed Gerecht announced that the church secretary, Paulette Irlander, will be retiring at the end of the year, and Jan Somers will be filling that position at both churches. Jan was secretary at FPC years ago, and her previous experience will help make the transition to a new minister easier.

The members of FPC also elected 2 members-at-large to the Nominating Committee for 2023: Carolyn Malfatone and Susan Brodziak.

Upcoming Worship Schedule

- Rev. Aspinall

During the month of November, we will worship in Stirling. Wearing face masks is optional, but we will continue social distancing and signing-in for purposes of contact tracing, if needed. 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.



If you need a ride to either church, please call upon a Deacon or fellow church member; we are happy to help.

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 just be a few minutes late. Latecomers are always welcome!

Twelve Baskets Food Pantry

Our local Food Pantry, Twelve Baskets, has returned to All Saints' in Millington. Jointly sponsored by our church, All Saints', Meyersville, and LHT CERT, 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.



Volunteer help is needed to set up tables, put the food out, and then pack it up afterwards. Help is also needed for 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.** For more information on this program, go to: <http://www.allsaintsmillington.org/outreach.html>

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

There is a more complete list of needed items on the table in the narthex.

Stewardship, November 2022

One day a pastor went visiting. He stopped at the home of one of his parishioners who was a farmer. He found the farmer out working in a field. The pastor stood admiring the field and said to the farmer, "What a beautiful field of wheat God has made." The farmer replied, "Yes, but you should have seen it when God had it all to Himself."

Just like a field needs cultivating for the good gifts of God to thrive, so does our spirit of generosity need cultivating to grow and develop into a ministry that is effective and meaningful and satisfying for the generous person. Generosity is something we learn. It rarely comes to us by nature, and the culture around us does not appear to encourage generosity. The priority of our world seems to be acquisitions and then guarding and protecting what has been acquired.

Jesus, on the other hand, continually told stories about people who shared, gave, helped, forgave – all calling us to widen and deepen our understanding of what it means to be generous.

Our theme for our stewardship program this year will be "Cultivating Generosity." We will be talking about how we are called to allow a spirit of generosity to grow within our own hearts as faithful people of God and in our families and other relationships. Generosity is certainly not only a matter of how much money we give to the church; it is the underlying understanding of ourselves as people who have been given gifts and that God then gives us opportunities to share those gifts. Sometimes generosity might take the form of patience with the foibles of others; it might be an opportunity to turn the other cheek; it might mean giving time to someone who is lonely; and, of course, it also means sharing what we have with the church so that the church can continue to serve as Christ's body in the world.

Stewardship Sunday will be November 13th when we will dedicate our pledges for the coming year. The congregation will be receiving a letter and pledge cards in the mail between now and then.

Handbell Choir

The joint-church handbell ringers will continue rehearsals on Sundays following morning worship and fellowship time. If you are interested in playing handbells, please join us. You do not need any prior experience or to read music. Why not give it a try?



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

Our **November Mission of the Month will be the Market Street Mission in Morristown**. Each Thanksgiving for many years, members and friends of our church have stepped up and donated their free turkeys to Market Street Mission to help in their effort to provide a delicious Thanksgiving dinner to homeless individuals. Since 1889, the Mission has been a refuge for those facing poverty, homelessness, and addiction. Currently, they provide 250 meals each day to those in immediate need. Besides providing much needed meals, this organization also provides 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." This year we will again support the Market Street Mission in two ways:



- If you are eligible for a free turkey from the supermarket and do not plan to use it, please consider donating it. **Tom Parziale will be at the church from 10-11 a.m. on Sat., November 19th to collect the turkeys.** He will then deliver them to Morristown. **Please keep turkeys frozen.**
- A special monetary gift will be collected throughout the month of November. This will help the Mission care for an individual's immediate needs today and their long-term needs for a stable and independent tomorrow. Please place your donation in the offering plate or send it 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. We hope you will support this worthy endeavor.

Fellowship Hour

We will be hosting these **wonderful gatherings in Pollard Hall following worship services in November at FPC**. 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.



Please consider helping with this important part of our church life by volunteering 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.



Please **speak to any Deacon or call Marie Darby (908-647-0714) and let her know when you would like to host.**

**Flowers to Beautify Our Sanctuary**

Would you consider providing a bunch or two of flowers to be used during a worship service in Stirling in November? Deacon Kim Ridgway (908-458-0333) loves to make arrangements and could help you with that if you call her ahead. Kim (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.

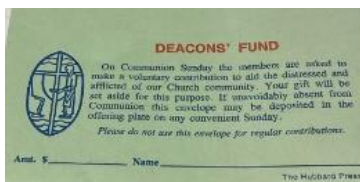
If you are interested in providing flowers in November, please call the church office (908-647-1033) and give Paulette the information (your name and who the flowers are in honor/memory of). Thank you very much in advance for helping beautify our sanctuary with wonders of nature!

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.



Deacons' Fund Needs Your Help!



Folks, we need your help! Because we are only in our church every other month, the Deacons' Fund is desperately low. Prior to Covid, the Deacons' Fund was 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 to the congregation, provisions for the

Bridges Lunch program, and the occasional purchase of special items like the cable for the remote TV used in Pollard Hall. It is also used to support some of the mission projects of the Deacons.

Every dollar is greatly appreciated and always put to good use. If you are able, please check the pew rack for that little green envelope and fill it up and place it in the offering plate or send your donation directly to Elsie Turqman. Many, many thanks in advance for your help in replenishing our Deacons' Fund!



Christmas Poinsettias

The Deacons will be accepting orders for poinsettias to decorate our chancel during Advent/Christmas. The Great Swamp Nursery will be supplying the plants, but the prices are not yet available. We will notify everyone once prices and colors are finalized so that you may place your order. There is an order form included in this newsletter.

Worship Committee

- Janet Parziale

November Lectionary Readings

November 6 - 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Job 19:23-27a; Psalm 17:1-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38

November 13 - 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Malachi 4:1-2a; Psalm 98; 2 Thessalonians 3-6-13; Luke 21:5-19

November 20 - Christ the King Sunday

Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 46; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

November 27 - First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44



All Saints' Sunday, November 6th

On Nov. 6th, we will celebrate **All Saints' Sunday**, a day when Christians give thanks for all the good people God has placed in their lives. Church members and friends have submitted names of those they have lost in the past year. A candle will be lit as each name is read aloud during the service, and their pictures will be shown on the screen. Please join us for this meaningful service.



Dedication of Historic Plaque, November 6th

Also on Nov. 6th, we will dedicate the historic plaque identifying the building that is the First Presbyterian Church of Stirling as a Long Hill Township historic site. Fred Hunt of the Long Hill Township Historic Preservation Advisory Committee researched our building using our archives and other documents and worked with Joyce Koenig and Rev. Aspinall to complete the application for this designation. Please plan to attend this special event.

Heritage Sunday



On **November 27th**, the church will celebrate **Heritage Sunday**. Dave Paladino will once again be our guest bagpiper and will play the tune Richard Streeton composed for our church, "Stirling on the Hill," as well as other tunes.

Following worship, there will be a special coffee hour with lots of Scottish goodies to enjoy. The Worship Committee invites anyone who enjoys baking to make their favorite Scottish treats to share. (And bring along the recipe, as you're sure to be asked for it.) Some of the planned goodies include scones and shortbread. Of course, a fine pot of tea will also be served! We hope you will plan to celebrate our church's Scottish heritage. Also, **remember to wear a wee bit of plaid.**



First Sunday in Advent

November 27th is also the **First Sunday in Advent**, when we begin our Journey to Christmas. Plan to join us each week as we light the Advent candles and get closer to the celebration of the birth of Jesus.



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 NOVEMBER, we will be worshipping in STIRLING; recordings will be done in MEYERSVILLE.** Recordings are typically done 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!**

Mission Programs

Bridges Outreach Lunch Program

- Janet Parziale

We continue to provide lunch bags to the Bridges Outreach organization for distribution to the homeless in Newark, Irvington, and NYC. 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.

Pop-Top Can Tabs

- Jan Somers



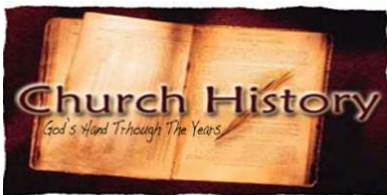
Please continue to save pop-top can tabs, any size. **The can tabs are sold by weight to recycling centers, and the proceeds are donated to Ronald McDonald House Charities**—a nonprofit family and children’s charity dedicated to supporting families with sick children in their time of need. You can give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

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.

Meyersville Presbyterian Church

Homemade Thanksgiving Pies

The Meyersville Church ladies will be baking delicious apple and pumpkin pies just in time for your Thanksgiving dinner. If you would like to order pies, please fill out the attached form and return it with your payment by Monday, Nov. 21st (cash or check). You may mail it to the church or call the church office with your order. You can also email: secretarympcc@aol.com. Pies will be available for pick-up at the church on Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 23rd. If you would like to help with peeling apples, etc., please join us the morning of the 23rd (around 9:00 a.m.) at MPC.



Meyersville Book Club

The Book Club will not be meeting in December. Our January selection is *“The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post,”* a fictional novel written by Allison Pataki. The group will meet via Zoom on Wednesday, January 4th, 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 in different formats.



Growing up in the modest farmlands of Battle Creek, Michigan, Marjorie was inspired by a few simple rules: always think for yourself, never take success for granted, and work hard—even when deemed American royalty, even while covered in imperial diamonds. Marjorie had an insatiable drive to live and love and to give more than she got. From crawling through Moscow warehouses to rescue the Tsar’s treasures to outrunning the Nazis in London, from serving the homeless of the Great Depression to entertaining Roosevelts, Kennedys, and Hollywood’s biggest stars, Marjorie Merriweather Post lived an epic life few could imagine.

Marjorie’s journey began gluing cereal boxes in her father’s barn as a young girl. No one could have predicted that C. W. Post’s Cereal Company would grow into the General Foods empire and reshape the American way of life, with Marjorie as its heiress and leading lady. Not content to stay in her prescribed roles of high-society wife, mother, and hostess, Marjorie dared to demand more, making history in the process. Before turning thirty she amassed millions, becoming the wealthiest woman in the United States. But it was her life-force, advocacy, passion, and adventurous spirit that led to her stunning legacy.

And yet Marjorie’s story, though full of beauty and grandeur, set in the palatial homes she built such as Mar-a-Lago, was equally marked by challenge and tumult. A wife four times over, Marjorie sought her happily-ever-after with the blue-blooded party boy who could not outrun his demons, the charismatic financier whose charm turned to betrayal, the international diplomat with a dark side, and the bon vivant whose shocking secrets would shake Marjorie and all of society. Marjorie did everything on a grand scale, especially when it came to love.

Bestselling and acclaimed author Allison Pataki has crafted an intimate portrait of a larger-than-life woman, a powerful story of one woman falling in love with her own voice and embracing her own power while shaping history in the process.



Welcome Little One . . .

Congratulations to Stephanie and Steven Pateman on the birth of their son, Alden Anthony, on October 4th. Proud grandparents are Lore and Rich Pateman, and October 4th is also Rich's birthday! Our best wishes to the happy family!



Medical Equipment Ministry

Chrissie (Parziale) DiBartolo shared the following about a program at her church, Pluckemin Presbyterian. They have been offering a medical supplies program for several years. The items are free, and you do not need to be a member of the church--just someone in need of the equipment.

When Life Takes Unexpected Turns



At one time or another we find ourselves needing, or know someone who needs some medical equipment. Many times it comes as an out of pocket expense that is difficult to afford. The Medical Equipment Ministry is here to help provide what you need at no cost.

908-396-6057

Hospital beds, wheelchairs, scooters, motorized wheelchairs, crutches, canes, walkers, commodes, lifts, adult diapers, shower seats, bed rails, rolling tables, transport chairs...

Pluckemin Medical Equipment Ministry is dedicated to improving the life of our clients and their families through the redistribution of used medical equipment at no cost to them

Visit us at: www.PPCMEM.org

Located at:
279 US 202-206
PO Box 402
Pluckemin, NJ 07978



Christmas Poinsettias Order Form

The Deacons are coordinating the ordering of poinsettias for the Christmas season. Please use the form below to place your order and specify if you are ordering in memory or honor of someone special in your life.

The deadline to order is Sunday, December TBD

Price: TBD

Colors: Red, Pink, or White

<u>What Color</u>	<u>How Many</u>	<u>Total Price</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
TOTALS	_____	_____



Purchased in MEMORY / HONOR of:
(Please circle one)

Given By:

(Please print clearly)

Please check one: To be picked up at the church: _____ To be donated: _____

Please submit your order and payment to the church office or place it in the offering plate on Sunday.

Make checks payable to: **FPC-Deacons** and note: **Christmas Poinsettia** on your check.

*****Deadline to order: Sunday, December TBD**

You may pick up your poinsettia following the Christmas Eve service.



THANKSGIVING PIES

The Meyersville Church ladies will be baking delicious apple and pumpkin pies just in time for your Thanksgiving dinner. If you would like to order pies, please fill out the order form below and return it with your **payment by Monday, 21st.** (Cash or check) You may mail it to the church or call the church office with your order. You can also email secretarympc@aol.com. Pies will be available for **pick-up** at the church on **Wednesday afternoon, November 23rd.**

<i>Large pies</i>	<i>apple \$20</i>	<i>pumpkin \$20</i>
Apple or Pumpkin?	Quantity	Price

Total _____

Your Name _____

Email	Phone

	<i>Meyersville Presbyterian Church</i>
	223 Hickory Tavern Road on Meyersville Circle Gillette, NJ 07933 908 647-0390

Ongoing Mission Programs:

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

Please e-mail submissions for the
December 2022 issue of Stirling Stuff to:

jsomers17@hotmail.com

by November 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 Lynn Blakeslee.

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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Website: www.fpcstirling.org

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 church!

