

APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling and Meyersville Presbyterian Church
LONG HILL NJ PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES PARTNERING TOGETHER

NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

I want to wish you great joy. And I want to remind you that Easter Sunday is a beginning. When Christ rose from the tomb, humanity was set on a new path. And each year celebrating Easter we begin again to recommit ourselves to living as Easter people. Because of the glory we witness on Easter, we are to carry in our hearts the truth and the mystery of what God can and does accomplish— the impossible. On Easter we see the nature of God on display through Christ, as goodness, peace, life and love have victory over evil, hate, death and sin. As you face hardships in your daily lives, I pray that you will remember Easter’s promise. As you look at evil and injustice in our world, I pray you will remember Easter’s promise. May Easter joy fill us with energy to work with God to embrace, enjoy and spread love, peace, hope and righteousness. This is the way of Christ! Alleluia.

Happy Easter! *Pastor Stefanie*

*“We are an Easter people
 and “Alleluia!” is our song.*

ATTRIBUTED TO ST. AUGUSTINE

“And the Glory”

*The silence breaks into morning.
 That One Star lights the world.
 The lily springs to life and
 not even Solomon ...
 Let it begin with singing and never end!
 Oh, angels, quit your lamenting!
 Oh, pilgrims,
 upon your knees in tearful prayer,
 rise up
 and take your hearts and run!
 We who were no people
 are named anew
 God’s people,
 for he who was no more
 is forevermore.*



WORSHIP

Worship in April

We will worship at **First Presbyterian Church of Stirling** in April, at 10 am.

Recorded Services

We continue to regularly record worship. Laura Zijdel is our videographer and editor. Our videos are viewed 20-30 times. Our reading of the Legend of the Poinsettia in December 2023 has been viewed 422 time. (We don't exactly know why.) This is a wonderful example of a project First Presbyterian Church of Stirling and Meyersville Presbyterian Church partner on so very successfully . Our online services are accessible through a link delivered by email and are also posted on social media and on both church websites.

Are you someone who watches our online services regularly? If so we would love to know who is watching (as we can see how many times a video is watched but not by whom). PLEASE let us know if you are one of our ‘regular” on-line worshippers by emailing Pastor Stefanie Muntzel at StefanieMinfaith@gmail.com.

Sunday Readers (aka Liturgists)

There are always spots available in our online worship services and in-person Sunday mornings for worship leaders. Folks to read the call to worship, prayers, and Scripture are always needed. Recording are usually done on Thursday late afternoons. Please let James Thorn know if you can help out!

Sunday lectionary Readings in April

Second Sunday of Easter—April 7

Acts 4:32–35

Psalm 133

1 John 1:1–2:2

John 20:19–31

Third Sunday of Easter—April 14

Acts 3:12–19 Psalm 4

1 John 3:1–7

Luke 24:36b–48

Fourth Sunday of Easter—April 21

Acts 4:5–12

Psalm 23

1 John 3:16–24

John 10:11–18

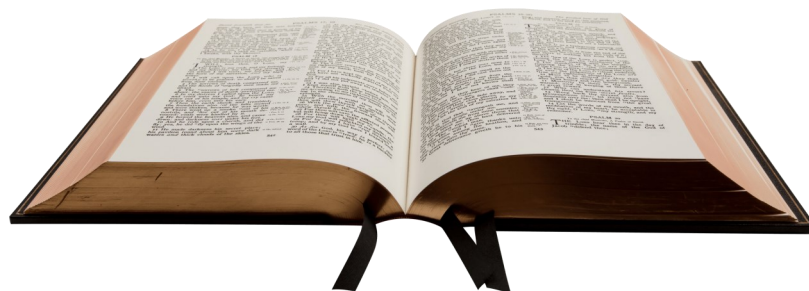
Fifth Sunday of Easter—April 28

Acts 8:26–40

Psalms 22:25–31

1 John 4:7–21

John 15:1– 8



2024 Elders and Deacons

First Presbyterian Church Elders

Lynn Blakeslee,
Mission, Property & Grounds

Ed Gerecht,
Personnel, Property & Grounds

Kai Ihringer,
Treasurer

Joyce Koenig,
Worship

Paul Wermuth,
Christian Education

Susan Brodziak,
Clerk of Session

FPCS Deacons

Susan Gerecht, Chair
Janet Parziale
Kimberly Ridgway
Elsie Turqman, Treasurer

Meyersville Presbyterian Church Elders

Marion Baker,
Mission

Sue Hahn,
Personnel, Deacon Liaison

Laura Minaian,
Clerk of Session, Property & Grounds

John Skrobacz,
Treasurer

Marcie Skrobacz,
Congregational Life

Loura Zijdel,
Worship

MPC Deacons

Linda Aulicky
Carol Baker
James Thorn
Ruud Zijdel, Chair

- * Janet Parziale chairs our joint Worship Team.
- * Tom Parziale chairs the FPC Property and Grounds Committee.



OFFICE HOURS

LINDA MURPHY, OFFICE MANAGER
Tues., Wed., Fri.: 10am –1pm @ FPC

Thursday: 10am-1pm @ MPC

REV STEFANIE MUNTZEL,
PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS:
Tues. and Thurs. 11am-3pm @ MPC
Mon.– Pastor's Day Off

Wed. and Fri. 11 am –3pm @ FPC

MISSION

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Our joint Mission of the Month for April for both churches is the Bridges Outreach Brown Bag Lunch Program.

Each month, a few folks meet in Pollard Hall at FPC to prepare 40 brown bag lunches containing a sandwich, fruit cup or applesauce, drink, snack, mustard, spoon, and napkin. The lunches are delivered to the Bridges Outreach office in Summit to be distributed to many grateful members of the homeless community in Summit, Newark, Irvington, and even New York City.

The cost of providing the 40 lunches is approximately \$90 each month, \$2.25 per lunch.

We accept donations of snacks, fruit cups or applesauce, and drinks throughout the year. If you are able to help with this, please drop your donations off at FPCS and mark it "Bridges Lunches."

Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is April 23rd in Pollard Hall. If you have an hour's time and would like to help, we would love to have you join us. Thank you.

All donations from the April Mission of the Month offering will be used to purchase items that go into the lunch bags.

Please mark your envelope or check memo with BRIDGES.



Bringing the housed and homeless together in community

Souper Bowl of Caring- Update

As a result of an amazing response for the February mission of the month, the team of MPC and FPCS amassed a total of \$710. This money will be sent to the Twelve Baskets Food Pantry that serves Long Hill Township. We may be small in number but once again a demonstration of a Big Heart.

Easter Donation to Market Street Mission- Update

Our traditional Easter season drive collecting Fresh Hams for donation to Market Street Mission in Morristown was done on March 23. This year we were able to donate 9 fresh hams and 2 turkeys.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Deacons Corner

Know Someone Who Needs a Card? Both our congregation's deacon send card of encouragement and care. Please let deacons know.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF STIRLING - Deacon, Kimberly Ridway

MEYERSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - Deacon, Carol Boyle

Deacons from both congregations will meet on April 14th, before worship , at 9:00 am.

Sunday Morning Fellowship Hour—At FPCS in April!!

Fellowship Hour (a.k.a. Coffee Hour!) is a very special time of fellowship following each weekly worship service. It is a wonderful time to share stories of the week and catch up with each other over our busy work weeks. Please consider helping with this important part of our church life by hosting one yourself or with a partner or simply donating money to be used to provide some delicious goodies for the morning.

The deacons of the First Presbyterian Church of Stirling oversee fellowship when worship is at the FPCS. At FPCS, anyone interested in hosting should sign up on the Deacon bulletin board or contact a deacon or call the church office. If you would like to host, but need some assistance paying for the goodies, please speak to a deacon so that you can be reimbursed. If you wish to donate money, please give it to a Deacon or place it in an envelope and mark it "Coffee Hour."

What is involved in hosting one? The coffee, tea, sugar, plates, napkins, and cups are all available in the kitchen and there is usually a deacon close by who would be glad to help you set up the table and show you where the supplies are stored. You can bring milk for coffee/tea (usually about a quart), juice (or simply use water), and some goodies (cookies, coffee cake, fruit, pretzels, and/or popcorn are some examples) to set out on the table. Coffee and tea are normally served during the Fall, Winter, and Spring. During the Summer, we serve only cold drinks. Again, if you need help in setting up the coffee and tea, please feel free to ask any Deacon or other member of the congregation. Your Coffee Hour can be as simple or as elaborate as you want. They are fun to do and thoroughly appreciated by everyone attending!

*If you would like to host Fellowship Hour at Meyersville Presbyterian Church in May, speak with MPC Congregational Life Elder, Marcie Scrobacz.

Fourth Sunday Focus

April 28th at First Presbyterian Church of Stirling. Everyone is invited to the "Fourth Sunday Focus".

Fourth Sunday Focus gatherings give us an opportunity to connect with other members of our church in a relaxed atmosphere: a pot of tea, a Box o' Joe, Munchkins . . . and conversation. All are welcome. We start around 8:45 a.m. and end by about 9:45 a.m. --- but come and join us whenever you can. We will meet in the meeting room at the First Presbyterian Church of Stirling. —Tom Parziale

Thank You

Almost-Spring Rummage Sale and Bake Sale-

The annual "spring" rummage sale was held at the Meyersville Presbyterian Church on March 15th and 16th, and it was a great success! A diversity of items resulted in many happy bargain hunters.

A special thank you for the overall coordination and execution led by Kelly Roshko. Many of you gave your time to help set-up and clean-up. Others in the congregation donated items and baked. There were some excellent sales-people on the floor on both Friday and Saturday. This effort included members of both churches. **Over \$6000 was raised!!!!**

Special Thanks to all who made Lent and Easter the sacred time it is

Carolyn Malfatone organized Easter flowers on behalf of FPC deacons! Thanks to all who made purchases.

Deacons of both churches delivered card and flowers to those who have a harder time getting to church.

Many hands, under the leadership of Janet Parziale, set up for and cleaned after the well attended Maundy Thursday Supper! Everyone brought excellent food!



Both churches hosted lovely fellowship time after our Easter services! Thanks to the Kielblock Family for once again hosting the early



Women's Retreat Opportunity

A one-day retreat will be held at United Presbyterian Church, 58 Drakesdale Road, Flanders, on Saturday, May 4, 2024 from 8:30am to 4:00 pm. Theme for the retreat is "I AM A CHILD OF GOD". Ladies, don't miss this opportunity to spend a day with other women learning about the wonderfulness of you!!!

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."

Psalms 139: 14-15

- Day will begin with a light breakfast; lunch will also be provided
- To register call Carole Rose, 973-252-1927;
- Cost for the retreat is \$25.00

Co-Leaders: Rev. Jean Holmes, Honorably retired P.C. USA Minister,
Trained Spiritual Director, Experienced Retreat Leader
Elder Carole Rose, Member of UPC, Experienced Retreat Leader

Deadline to register is April 30th!

We Need Your Help!

The Meyersville Presbyterian Church Directory, as well as the Birthday and Anniversary Lists are being updated.

Please respond to this request by emailing Carol Boyle at vasamom2015@gmail.com or calling (908) 342-4296 .

Please provide the following information:

- * Family Names
- * Current mailing address
- * Current cell phone# and/or landline#
- * Email address(es)
- * Dates of Birth, for all family members, especially Children (to send Birthday cards from MPChurch)
- * Anniversary (if applicable)

This information will be used solely for church business.



CHURCH DIRECTORY

CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to the Bruno and Skrobacz Families— Connor Fredrick Bruno was born on March 17th.

<<<

Congratulations to the Holsten and Mertz Families-

Blair Cameron Holsten was born on March 25th. >>>



The Messenger & Stirling Stuff is the **combined newsletter** of The Meyersville Presbyterian Church and The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling, both in Long Hill NJ. The deadline for May newsletter is Tuesday, April 16th.

Submissions can be sent to Rev. Stefanie Muntzel, Pastor StefanieMinfaith@gmail.com

Office email for Meyersville Presbyterian Church: office@meyersvillechurch.com,

Office email for The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling. fpcschurchsecretary@gmail.com

First Presbyterian Church of Stirling

158 Central Ave.

Stirling, NJ 07980

908-647-1033

www.fpcstirling.org

Meyersville Presbyterian Church

223 Hickory Tavern Road

Gillette, NJ 07933

908-647-0390

www.meyersvillechurch.com

APRIL 2024 CALENDAR

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------|--|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 6 pm MPC Session | 5 | 6 |
| 7 @ FPC 10 am Worship Service 11 am Fellowship Bells | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 @ FPC 9 am Joint Deacons 10 am Worship Service 11 am Worship Cte | 15 | 16 | 17 10 am Mom's Group @ FPC | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 @ FPC 10 am Worship Service with Lisa Gray. 11 am Fellowship | 22 | 23 9:30 Bridges Lunch @ FPC | 24 6pm Zoom Buildings & Grounds | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 @ FPC 8:45 Fourth Sunday Focus 10 am Worship Service 11 am Fellowship Mission Team | 29 | 30 6:00 pm FPC Session | | | | Note: Bible Study will resume in May |