

JUNE NEWSLETTER**Meyersville Presbyterian Church and The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling***LONG HILL NJ PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES PARTNERING TOGETHER***NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR**

“If the mailman brings you a love letter from your fiancé, don’t fall in love with the mailman. That’s what summer is: God’s messenger with a sun-soaked, tree-green, flower-blooming, lake-glistening letter of love to show us what he is planning for us in the age to come !”

Rev. John Piper, Pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Summer begins on June 21st. It is the hottest of our four seasons. It is also the brightest season— daylight hours are the longest and darkness hours are the shortest. It is the time of backyard barbecues and beach outings, of fireworks and fireflies. Life is lush and verdant. As Rev. Piper puts it, summer is full of “sun-soaked, tree green, flower-blooming, lake-glistening” beauty. I love his assertion that summer is a love letter from God.

Our lives can be busy and mundane and overwhelming. There are wars raging and political scandals brewing. There are chores to be done and bills to be paid. If we are not careful, we can miss the beauty and wonder of God’s creation here and now. And we can forget the hope and glory of life promised to come. So as spring slips into summer savor the growing greenness, the blooming colors, the shifting pace of life. Breathe deeply. Slow down. See the goodness of God all around you.

I hope you do not see this rich and lovely season as a time to step away from worship and faith shared through church life. With shared voices in worship, we can lift our thanks to God for all that is good. With open hearts, we can serve our neighbors through the 12 Basket’s Food Pantry moving to Pollard Hall at the First Presbyterian Church of Stirling the last week of June. In this warm and bright time can keep our faith healthy, strong and growing—not just as individuals but as God’s people together.

Pastor Stefanie



WORSHIP

WORSHIP IN JUNE

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

RECORDED SERVICES

We continue to regularly record and share Pastor Stefanie and our church liturgists leading worship. These online services are accessible through a link delivered by email each week, posted on social media, and shared on both church websites.

However, scheduling, recording and editing a service is a big task. We need to allow for some more flexibility in our production. So moving forward you may notice that we will be re-broadcasting some past services or releasing recording which are not in-sync with Sunday's services. We believe the experience of those who worship with us only online will continue to be positive. Laura Zijdel continues as our videographer and editor.

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!

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JUNE

June 2, 2024

- 1 Samuel 3:1-10 or Deuteronomy 5:12-15
- Psalm 8
- 2 Corinthians 4:5-12
- Mark 2:23-3:6

June 9, 2024

- 1 Samuel 8:4-11, 16-20 or Genesis 3:8-15
- Psalm 130
- 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1
- Mark 3:20-35

June 16, 2024

- 1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13 or Ezekiel 17:22-24
- Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15
- 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17
- Mark 4:26-34

June 23, 2024

- 1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49 or 1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 18:10-16
- Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32
- 2 Corinthians 6:1-13
- Mark 4:35-41

June 30, 2024

- 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 or Lamentations 3:22-33
- Psalm 30
- 2 Corinthians 8:7-15
- Mark 5:21-43



MISSION

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Our Joint-Church Mission Committee has chosen **Village 2 Village as the Mission of the Month for June**. Village2Village supports vulnerable children through education, medical care, nutrition, and social and spiritual mentoring. It builds relationships with children and families one at a time, seeing them as individuals with untapped potential to change their communities.

Village2Village began in 2003 with only \$100 to help nine school-aged children in Uganda who lived with elderly and sick grandparents or no adults at all. This \$100 bought one bag of rice and beans, nine school uniforms, and nine backpacks. It has grown to serve 200+, many with special needs including HIV/AIDS. With God's help and support from congregations like ours, it has become a staffed organization, recognized by Uganda as non-governmental organization (NGO) since 2006.

After many years of fiscal sponsorship by First Baptist Church of Bristol, Vermont, Village2Village Project became a separate 501c3 charitable organization at the end of 2016. They now have partners in 40 countries, reaching out from their "villages" into rural Africa to serve some of the world's most desperate children. Village2Village Project has growing University and vocational programs, and their first students are graduating and beginning to give back to their community. Their goal is always to meet the individual needs of each child so they can reach their potential and change their world. They continue to grow because the need is so desperate.

To learn more about how V2V helps change the world,
go to Village2Village Project:

<https://village2villageproject.org/>

If you would like to support this ministry, please mark
your donation "V2V," and place it in the offering plate or
send it to your home church office. Thank you.



MISSION

TWELVE BASKETS - Moving to FPC-Stirling in June

Our local Food Pantry, Twelve Baskets, is co-sponsored by All Saint's Church, First Presbyterian Church in Stirling, Meyersville Presbyterian Church and Long Hill Township CERT and Community Services.

The pantry is currently housed at All Saints' Church in Millington, will be moving to FPC-Stirling for the months of July, August, and September again this year. Shelf stable food as well as meat, dairy products, eggs, and fresh produce are available for food insecure families in our area.

What does the food pantry need?

1. Coffee & Tea both regular & decaf
2. Low Sodium Items
3. Gluten Free Items
4. Family Friendly Snack
nuts, pretzels, crackers, granola bars
5. Condiments ketchup, mustard, mayo

You can drop off donations to

- All Saints' Church-side entrance, 15 Basking Ridge Road, Millington
- Long Hill Library, 917 Valley Road, Gillette
- **ShopRite Stirling @ exit doors**

Sponsored by First Presbyterian of Stirling, Meyersville Presbyterian, All Saints Millington, Long Hill Township CERT & Community Services.

Some of the food will be stored at FPC-Stirling, and guests will come there on the scheduled the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 5:30-6:00pm. **Volunteer help is needed** to set up Pollard Hall as well as serve 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 (FPC) or Doris Mertz (MPC) 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>

BRIDGES OUTREACH LUNCH PROGRAM

We continue to provide 40 bag lunches to the Bridges Outreach organization for distribution to the homeless in Newark, Irvington, and NYC. The sandwiches, drinks, and non-perishable goodies are delivered to Summit monthly in brown lunch bags. The children from the Long Hill Montessori School have decorated the lunch bags in the past. Our **next commitment** date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Tuesday, June 25th, 9:30 a.m., in Pollard Hall.** Your help in making these lunches would be greatly appreciated. If you are available to help, please speak to Janet Parziale.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR PHYLLIS CLEMSON

Saturday, June 15

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling

11:00 am

A Service of Witness to the Resurrection and Celebration of life
for Phyllis Clemson

12:00 noon—Pollard Hall

Luncheon with Clemson Family



If you are able to help the deacons with set-up and clean-up of the luncheon, please email Linda at fpcschurchsecretary@gmail.com.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

SPRING BIBLE STUDY

Join Rev. Muntzel for Bible Study after worship on 'odd' weeks in June. We will meet on week 1 June 2, week 3 June 16, week 5 June 31 after worship. Grab something yummy from fellowship hour and then come to the meeting room. We will meet for 1 hour. Our study will center in Old Testament texts.

FOURTH SUNDAY FOCUS

JUNE 23 AT THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF STIRLING.

Everyone is invited to join us at the next "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

Deacons Corner

Know Someone Who Needs a Card?

Both our congregation's deacons send cards of encouragement and care.

Please let deacons know:

MEYERSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH -

Deacon, Carol Boyle

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF STIRLING -

Deacon, Kimberly Ridway



Sunday Morning Fellowship Hour—



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 held at the FPCS.

Please fill in the sign-up sheet in Pollard to host or co-host a fellowship hour this June or speak with Susan Gerech, deacon chair.

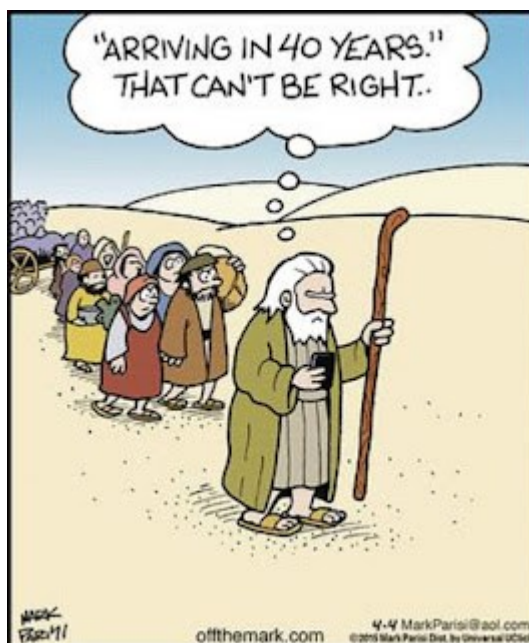
Pentecost Red!



Mother's Day



Holy Humor—Moses and Technology Edition



HOUSEKEEPING!

AUDIT –FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF STIRLING

An audit committee consisting of Sandy Mackay, Ed Gerecht and Janet Parziale conducted an audit of the General Operations and Dedicated Fund accounts for the 2023 calendar year of the First Presbyterian Church of Stirling. The audit occurred on April 17, 2024. Kai Ihringer, Treasurer and Linda Murphy, Office Manager assisted with the audit. The Presbytery Financial Review Checklist was used as a guide examining Income, Disbursements, Reports, General Ledger, Administrative and Payroll.

The Audit Committee informed the Clerk of Sessions and the Pastor that the committee did not find any discrepancies in the audit. A separate review of the Endowment Fund was conducted, which reviewed opening and closing balances, as well as confirming that no disbursements occurred during 2023.

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

Wed. and Fri. 11 am –3pm @ FPC

Mon.– Pastor's Day Off



The Messenger & Stirling Stuff is the **combined newsletter** of The Meyersville Presbyterian Church and The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling. The deadline for the July/August Summer newsletter is Tuesday, June 18th.

Submissions can be sent to Rev. Muntzel: StefanieMinfaith@gmail.com

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

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

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908-647-1033

www.fpcstirling.org

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Gillette, NJ 07933

908-647-0390

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JUNE 2024 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 @FPCS 10 am Worship Service 11 am Fellowship 11:30 am Bible Study	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 @FPCS 10 am Worship Service 11am Fellowship	10	11	12 Session Mtg- Save the date.	13	14	15 Memorial Service for Phyllis Clemson 11am, Luncheon 12pm in Pollard Hall
16 @ FPCS 10 am Worship Service 11 am Fellowship 11:30 am Bible Study HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!	17	18 Summer Newsletter Deadline	19	20	21	22
23 @ FPCS 8:45 Fourth Sunday Focus 10 am Worship Service 11 am Fellowship	24	25 9:30 am @FPCS Bridges Lunch Program Preparation	26 6:30pm Buildings and Grounds Zoom Meeting	27	28	29
30 @ FPCS 10 am Worship Service 11 am Fellowship 11:30 am Bible Study						

