

**May 2024 NEWSLETTER****Meyersville Presbyterian Church and The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling***LONG HILL NJ PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES PARTNERING TOGETHER***NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR**

I met many of you for the first time, one year ago. I was introduced to you as your new covenant supply pastor. Technically this title means I have an covenant with both of your congregations' Sessions, which must be renewed each year.

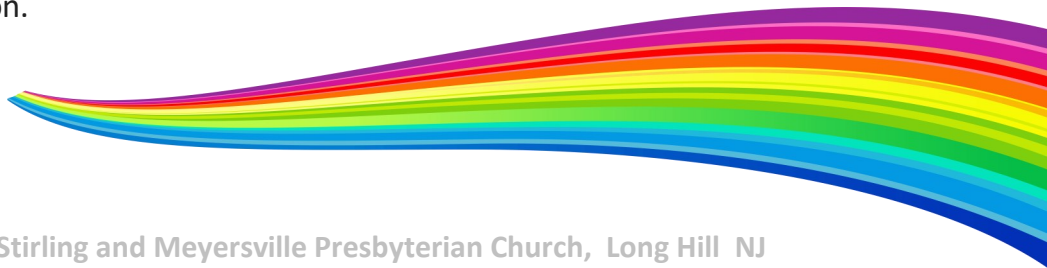
We don't use language about having a contract or agreement. We have a covenant. And I find the language of covenants meaningful. Covenants can be found throughout our holy scripture. We know God created a beautiful world and wanted nothing more than to have a loving relationship with humanity. Despite God's good intentions, humans repeatedly deviated from God's plan. We rejected God. But God persistently sought to reestablish a bond with humanity and did so by entering into covenants. Covenants include promises and commitments in sacred relationships.

We might remember Noah, the flood, and the arc. The horrible floods happened after God looked out upon his created world and saw human immorality and wrongdoing. God had enough and decided to flood the land of corruption. But God also saw Noah was a good man. God saved Noah, his family, and the creatures of the land. After the flood, God knew this was not the way to restore goodness. And so God established a covenant with Noah promising to never respond to human wrong doing with destruction ever again. The rainbow is the visual reminder of this covenant.

Humankind has tested that sacred promise again and again with our inclination towards greed, war, and injustice. God has persisted in working to redeem and restore humanity and all of creation back to a state of goodness and grace. God forged further covenants, working through individuals and communities to mend the rift between divinity and humanity. In due time, God initiated a final covenant with humanity through Jesus. In our sharing of Christ's cup in communion, we remember Jesus's words: "This cup is a new covenant sealed in my blood for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you share it, remember me." Perhaps next time you celebrate communion, you might recall God's unrelenting faithfulness to humanity and to you.

The covenant between you and I is to work together in ministry. It is a mutual bond which is blessed by God. I am truly excited to share this ministry with you. As you move throughout your days, maybe catching sight of a rainbow this Spring, remember that God is working for your good and the good of all creation.

*Pastor Stefanie*



## WORSHIP

### Worship in May

We will worship at **Meyersville Presbyterian Church** in May, at 10 am.  
We will celebrate communion on May 5th and honor Mothers on May 12th.



### Pentecost, May 19th

On the Day of Pentecost we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit descending in a mighty rush of wind and flame to inspire the church's proclamation of Christ's rising and to empower its mission and ministry to the world. (See Acts 2:1-13; see also Joel 2:28-32.) Pentecost happens 50 days after Easter— and marks the end of the Easter season.

On May 19th, the church will be decorated with symbols of Pentecost. Everyone is encouraged to wear **RED** to the service in Meyersville that morning.

### Recorded Services

We continue to regularly record and share Pastor Stefanie and our church liturgists leading worship. Loura Zijdel is our videographer and editor. 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 recordings 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.

**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](mailto: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!

May 5

Acts 10:44–48  
Psalm 98 1  
John 5:1–6  
John 15:9–17

May 12

Acts 1:15–17, 21–26  
Psalm 1  
1 John 5:9–13  
John 17:6–19

May 19

Ezekiel 37:1–14  
Psalm 104:24–35b  
Acts 2:1–21  
John 15:26–27;  
16:4b–15  
PENTECOST

May 26

Isaiah 6:1–8  
Psalm 29  
Romans 8:12–17  
John 3:1–17

# MISSION

## MISSION OF THE MONTH

### JERSEY BATTERED WOMEN’S SERVICE OF MORRIS COUNTY

Our Joint-Church Mission Committee has chosen the Jersey Battered Women’s Service of Morris County as the Mission of the Month for May. This is a full-service domestic violence and abuse prevention agency. Their services include a 24-hour hotline, counseling, a safe house, services for children, vocational counseling, batterers’ intervention, and legal assistance. Their mission is the prevention of domestic violence through the protection and empowerment of the victim, rehabilitation of family members, and education of the public about domestic violence and its consequences.

In 2022, JBWS saw a shocking increase in the number of clients served in nearly every single one of their programs. There was a 98% increase in people receiving support from our adult counseling services, a 79% increase in adults and children seeking services from the Morris Family Justice Center, a 73% increase in days survivors stayed at JBWS' Emergency Safe House Shelter, and much more. If you would like to support this ministry, please place your donation in the offering plate or send it to your church office marked “JBWS.”

## WHEN YOU SUSPECT ABUSE

### STEP ONE: BECOME EDUCATED

### STEP TWO: SHOW C-O-N-C-E-R-N

- C** **CONCERN** Open the conversation with “I’m concerned about you.” Don’t begin by criticizing the relationship.
- O** **OBSERVATIONS** Be clear and specific about what you saw and how it made you feel.
- N** **NO ONE DESERVES ABUSE** There is no excuse for hurting another person emotionally, verbally, sexually or physically. The person using abuse is solely responsible for their actions.
- C** **CONFIDENTIALITY** Let your friend know that you respect their need for privacy and confidentiality. The decision to stay with a partner or to seek help is up to them.
- E** **EMPATHIZE** Don’t judge your friend. Empathize with the complexity of feelings that you can have in a relationship.
- R** **R U SAFE** Safety has to be a critical concern anytime you suspect abuse. Let them know the warning signs of the potential escalation of abuse.
- N** **NAMING THE PROBLEM** as unhealthy or abusive can help direct them to the most appropriate resources.

### STEP THREE: MAKE A REFERRAL



**1-877-R-U-ABUSED**  
**jbws.org or morrisfjc.org**

# CONGREGATIONAL CARE

## **SPRING Bible Study**

**Join Rev. Muntzel for Bible Study after worship on ‘odd’ Sundays in May and June. We will meet on May 5th and 19th after worship. Grab something yummy from fellowship hour and then come to the Lounge at Meyersville. We will meet for 1 hour. Our study will center in Old Testament texts.**

## **Fourth Sunday Focus**

**May 26 at Meyersville Presbyterian Church.**

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. On May 26<sup>th</sup> we will meet at the Meyersville Presbyterian Church. —Tom Parziale

## **Deacons Corner**

Know Someone Who Needs a Card? Both our congregation’s deacon 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—At Meyersville in May**



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

The deacons of the First Presbyterian Church of Stirling oversee fellowship when worship is held at the FPCS. Feel free to sign-up in Pollard Hall when you are worshipping at Stirling.

# CONGREGATIONAL CARE

## Thanks and Congratulations!

A wonderful turn out for a clean-up of Meyersville's Parking lot.



Thank  
You!



**Welcome to the world baby Drew Gerecht!**

And congratulations to grandparents Ed and Susan Gerecht on the birth of your granddaughter on April 29th.

## HOUSEKEEPING!

### DIRECTORY UPDATES

Both congregations will be updating their directories this Spring. If you have new email, phone or address information please let our office manager know at [fpcschurchsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:fpcschurchsecretary@gmail.com) or for Meyersville specifically, Carol Boyle at [vasamom2015@gmail.com](mailto:vasamom2015@gmail.com).

Directories will also be found on tables during fellowship hour after church for you to mark with your update information.

### GRADUATION

Please email information about upcoming graduations of our members or of those close to our members so we can celebrate these occasions in our next newsletter. Names of graduates, where they are graduating from, and any future plans are all welcome information — pictures are always welcome! Please send to [fpcschurchsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:fpcschurchsecretary@gmail.com). This is for both churches!!!

### 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, both in Long Hill NJ.  
The deadline for June newsletter is Tuesday, May 21st.

Submissions can be sent to Rev. Muntzel: Rev. Stefanie Muntzel, Pastor [StefanieMinfaith@gmail.com](mailto:StefanieMinfaith@gmail.com)

Office email for Meyersville Presbyterian Church: [office@meyersvillechurch.com](mailto:office@meyersvillechurch.com),

Office email for The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling. [fpcschurchsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:fpcschurchsecretary@gmail.com)

#### **First Presbyterian Church of Stirling**

158 Central Ave.

Stirling, NJ 07980

908-647-1033

[www.fpcstirling.org](http://www.fpcstirling.org)

#### **Meyersville Presbyterian Church**

223 Hickory Tavern Road

Gillette, NJ 07933

908-647-0390

[www.meyersvillechurch.com](http://www.meyersvillechurch.com)

# MAY 2024 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 @MPC 10 am Worship Service 11 am Fellowship 11:30 am Bible Study	6	7	8 6:00PM Joint Session Mtg. @MPC 7:30PM Meyersville Session	9	10	11
12 @MPC 10 am Worship Service 11am Fellowship  Happy Mother's Day!	13	14 Presbytery Meeting Zoom and Camp Johnsonburg	15	16	17	18
19 @ MPC 10 am Worship Service 11 am Fellowship 11:30 pm Bible Study  PENTECOST!	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 @MPC 8:45 Fourth Sunday Focus 10 am Worship Service 11 am Fellowship	27	28 Bridges Lunch Program Preparation 9:30 am  FPCS Session Meeting Zoom- 6pm	29	30	31	