

THE MESSENGER AND STIRLING STUFF

Newsletter

September 2024

September is the beginning of a new program year. The leaders of both our two churches recognize investing in our partnership is the way to move forward in a healthy and fruitful way.

We **gather** together to worship God.

“Worship the Lord with gladness and joyful song.” — Psalm 100:2

We **grow** in faith together through Bible study, prayer and fellowship.

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” — Acts 2:42

We **give** out of gratitude to God’s generosity. Engaged congregational leaders and members from BOTH churches who give of their time, talents and yes financial treasures —is what keeps our ministry alive.

“It is more blessed to give than to receive.” — Acts 20:35b

We **go**. Jesus sent the disciple to go and serve in his name. Every month we have a mission focus which helps us serve in Christ’s name.

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Matt 25: 40

It’s a helpful to note these central steps of faith. I could have used other words- worship, Christian education, prayer, mission, evangelism and stewardship. But gather, grow, give and go are simple actions. (And who doesn’t like alliteration?)

These are actions our small but mighty churches can and do embrace. Cultivating these core aspects in our partnership will help our churches thrive. As we mark a ‘kick-off’ in September, renew your personal commitment to being a disciple of Christ and gather, grow, give and go in God’s name—together with your friends and neighbors .
Rev. Muntzel




gather.grow.give.go

GATHER

“Worship the Lord with gladness and joyful song.” — Psalm 100:2

Sunday worship is in Meyersville Presbyterian Church in September.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 1st

6:00 PM

Labor Day Joint Church Picnic at Meyersville!
Hamburgers and Hot Dogs provided. Bring a side-dish!



7:00PM Worship and Communion @ Meyersville

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8th

9:00 AM Rally Day Pancake Breakfast



10:00 AM Worship returns to Sunday mornings at 10 AM.

11:00 AM Fellowship Hour

11:15 AM Joint Session Gathering @ Meyersville

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 15th

10:00 AM Worship

11:00 AM Fellowship Hour

11:15 AM Joint Worship Comte. @ Meyersville



SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 22nd

8:45 AM 4th Sunday Focus @ Meyersville

10:00 AM Worship

11:00 AM Fellowship Hour



SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 29th

10:00 AM *Bring a Friend to Church Sunday*
Praise God for the gift of joy! Submit your favorite “church appropriate” jokes/cartoons to stefanieminfaith@gmail.com

11:00 AM Fellowship Hour

11:30 AM Bible Study!



GROW

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." — Acts 2:42

Fourth Sunday Focus— Sunday, September 22

On the fourth Sunday of each month all are invited to meet in the meeting room at FPCS or the Parlor at Meyersville at 8:45 - 9:45 am. Come when you are able and stay for the part or all of the time. We discuss a topic of interest, how it relates to the bible and our lives. Tom Parziale leads this monthly event and always brings a Box of Joe and munchkins to enjoy. We hope to see you there!

Bible Study for Everyone— Sunday, Sept 27th

*Continuing on 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month!

October's Study— Symbols of faith. Our Bible study will be centered in scripture but inspired by the symbols we find in the logo of the Presbyterian Church USA.



November and December's focus on Luke for Everyone

Explore Jesus as teacher, healer and embodiment of compassion. We will use the resource by renowned Bible scholar N. T. Wright. Luke's gospel will be explored through an accessible translation and profound commentary, revealing its brilliance and historical importance. Bible Study Led by Rev. Muntzel.

Dear FPCS and MPC Friends in Christ,

A very active, varied group of around 6 people began to meet after church on Sundays this past Spring. We started our Bible study with an overview of well-known Bible stories from the Old Testament. We then focused on Genesis- the story of the garden, then Abraham and Sara, and later the whale of a story with Jonah! Most of us are hearing these stories for the first time in an adult fashion. These aren't just stories to be read to children, but also us older folks. Looking over these stories we see forgiveness as an ongoing process, the flareups of hatred, and the very big payoff of God's love. These stories highlight lessons for us today- the importance of family and listening to God and following his guidance.

We would just **love** to have you join us. Please consider this great program and grow with us.

Elder Paul Weremuth

KEEP THESE FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Steven Augen
Justin Byrnes
Deb Colombo
Christy Witlox 'Aprix
Lori Engler & Family
Art Fletcher

Sandy Francis
Family of Ruth Hubinette
Ann Hurlock
Jennie Lynn
Susan Johnstonbaugh
Kristin, Karin, Steve
Rick Krueger
Dorothy Malfatone

Pat Mancinelli
Mike Mascola
George Masatis
Morris
Melody
Frank Perlzak
Bill Richter
Sally

Fred Schaan
Israel Sierra, Jr.
Evelyn Smith
Katie Stroebel
John Taylor Thryss
Kim Wermuth

Jill Abeln
Alice
Charlie Aulicky
George Barker
Anne Berman
Russell Boyle
Ymkje Broersma

Tom Gamon
Holly Graham
Litty and Dennis Hado
Nancy Hall
Roberta Keller
Regina Klemens
Alyssa Geschwinder
Linder

Jan LaBerty
Jimmy Mauro
Joan McCloskey
Jaxon Nguyen
Gina Rocco
Lee Riser
Joanne Smith
Katie Strobel

Dianne Thorn
James Thorn
Roy and Georgine
Weiland
Zoe Williford
Ellen Winter

September Birthdays

- 3rd Susan Brodziak, Charlie Noury
- 5th Lynn Rosol
- 9th Julie Beyer, Julia Minaian
- 11th Katherine Ihringer, Sue Sanders
- 12th Pamela Edwards
- 13th Deborah Schmitt
- 14th Carol Boyle, Danielle Minaian
- 17th Jenna Leski, Julie Grillo McGinn
- 22nd Barbara Grillo, Gary Hilf
- 23rd Kristin Linden, Paul Wermuth

September

- 3rd Linda and Charley Aulicky
- 8th Ruud and Loura Zijdel
- 13th William and Lark Beyer
- 15th Janet and Tom Parziale
- 16th Tevor and Nancy Dalin-Peters
- 17th Jeff and Lynn Blakeslee
- 27th Mansour and Laura Minaian



Help me grow. Not in inches or feet, not by height or width. **Lord** be with me as I pray my way to spiritual growth. **Amen**



GIVE

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." — Acts 20:35b



Above and right: Tree fell on the side of the sanctuary and on Memorial Garden gate.

Below: Insurance funds will be used to repair the memorial garden damage .



REDWOOD TREE SERVICE
donated their services to remove the tree which fell on the FPCS property! This was so generous.
[Redwood Tree Service \(redwoodnj.com\)](http://redwoodnj.com)

LONG HILL also sent a crew to remove the part of the tree .

Thank You!

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling had two serious property issues this summer- in addition to regular maintenance and the tree falling, there was flooding in the lower floor where Long Hill Montessori School meets. The committee which addresses all that takes place on our Stirling property is a very dedicated group. There is always so much for them to do. They give so much time and share so many of their talents. Special thanks to chairperson Tom Parziale and team members Jeff Blakeslee, Lynn Norcia Blakeslee, Ed Gerech, and Rev. Muntzel.

Congratulation to baby Zoey Mariella Zijdel, her mother Marijolein Zijdel and the entire Zijdel family. Baptized on August 4, 2024.



Congratulations Filippatos Family!



Elen Filippatos and Josh Katz
Wedding 5/26/24
Park Loft in Oceanport, NJ



George Filippatos and Bethany Trevino
Wedding 7/20/24
Winter Park, Colorado



Congratulations!
Megan Gallagan and Aaren Beaty
Wedding 7/27/24
Stroudsburg, PA

Go “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Matt 25: 40

Mission of the Month:

Each month the congregations of Stirling and Meyersville support a special group to receive our mission collection. Please make a donation in September, mark your check, on-line gift, or envelope with “CWS.

SEPTEMBER:

Church World Service, Blankets

CWS blankets have been used to help families driven from their homes due flood, fire, or other disasters, to keep homeless persons warm, to carry personal belongings. These woolen blankets are water-resistant and flame-retardant. They are durable, warm and great for frigid temperatures or other extreme weather conditions. Each \$10 gift provides a blanket and enables someone to feel God’s love in their lives. You can show God’s love and provide hope to your neighbors by making a donation.



Bridges Outreach Lunch Program, September 24, 9:30 a.m.



Won’t YOU help provide bag lunches to people who are without housing in Newark, Irvington, and NYC?

The sandwiches, drinks, and non-perishable goodies are delivered to Summit monthly in brown lunch bags. Our next commitment date is: Tuesday, September 24, 9:30 a.m., in Pollard Hall. If you are available, speak to Janet Parziale.

Help 40 people know they have not been forgotten.



Volunteers sort baked goods donated from Panera Bread.

One of the blessings of God’s generosity is being able to share it with others.

Once again the 12 Basket’s Food Pantry has been housed in Pollard Hall at the First Presbyterian Church of Stirling. On the first and third Thursday of the month our neighbors in and around Long Hill are welcomed to “shop” for their needs. Without the support of both Meyersville and First Stirling folks, this mission would not thrive. We are so thankful to be partners together and with All Saint’s Episcopal Church.

The pantry will return to All Saint’s Church in mid-October. Please contact Lynn Blakeslee (FPC) or Doris Mertz (MPC) if you would like to support this important effort. Volunteers are needed.



Village 2 Village

Esther (right) has received help through V2V even though she has no US sponsor. Your financial support and prayers let children know someone believes in them enough to get involved in their struggles, and allows new children to join even before they are sponsored.

Thank you so much for your faithful support for them month after month and year after year.

Laurie Kroll, Project Director

Want to sponsor a child in Uganda? Speak with Ruud Z or email our office.



Best Wishes to Tatiana! It was with sadness and gratitude that we bid farewell to our organist. We offered our gratitude with gifts and words of thanks. Tatiana moves abroad in September.



CONCERT SERIES BEGINS IN OCTOBER

Music has the unparalleled power to elevate us through tough times and amplify our joyful celebrations. With its rhythms, textures, and diversity, music speaks the language of our hearts and souls. It's the bond that unites us, the balm that comforts us, and the harmony that heals us.

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling embarked on a musical journey in 2015, aiming to offer something extraordinary to the residents of Long Hill Township. This mission continues with monthly performances starting in October 2024 and running through April 2025, with the possibility of extending into June.

As we embark on our sixth season, we eagerly anticipate introducing our township to a brand-new series spotlighting jazz, rock, and country music. Aligning with the season's lively and informal spirit, concerts will take place in Pollard Hall.

We offer this gift of music to our neighbors as a way to give thanks for the life and memory of former pastor of The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling, Rev. Tom Peters.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the generous donors who help us continue to share this gift of music. Without such community support, we couldn't provide Long Hill Township with another season of top-tier entertainment.

Concert planning team members are Ed Gerecht, Kai Ihringer, Howard Kupferman, and Rev. Stefanie Muntzel.



The Messenger & Stirling Stuff

SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

The Messenger & Stirling Stuff is the combined **newsletter** of The Meyersville Presbyterian Church and The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling. Deadline for October newsletter is September 17, 2023. Submission can be sent to Rev. Muntzel 's email StefanieMinFaith@gmail.com.

First Presbyterian Church, Stirling

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www.fpcstirling.org

Meyersville Presbyterian Church

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Gillette, NJ 07933
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Rev. Stefanie Muntzel, Pastor

StefanieMinfaith@gmail.com

Tuesday, Thursday @ Meyersville

Wednesday, Friday @ First PC Stirling

Office Hours: 11am-3pm

Linda Murphy, Office Manager

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FPC Church Office: 908-647-1033

Tues., Wed., Fri. 10 AM —1 PM

MPC Church Office: 908-647-0390

Thursdays 10 AM– 1 PM



SEPTEMBER CALENDAR– Worship at Meyersville PC

<p>1 @ MPC 6 pm Labor Day Picnic 7 pm Worship & Communion</p>	2	3	<p>4 Zoom 6:00 pm Buildings & Grounds</p>	<p>5 @ FPC 12 Baskets Food Pantry 11:30—12:30 Seniors; 5:00—6:00 Open</p>	6	7
<p>8 @ MPC 8:30 am Pancake Breakfast Set Up \ 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship 11:15 am Joint Session</p>	9	10	<p>11 MPC 6:00 PM Session Mtg.</p>	12	13	14
<p>15 @ MPC 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship 11:15 am Worship Committee</p>	16	17	18	<p>19 @ FPC 12 Baskets Food Pantry 11:30—12:30 Seniors; 5:00—6:00 Open</p>	20	21
<p>22 MPC 8:45 am Fourth Sunday Focus 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship</p>	23	<p>24 FPC 9:30 am Outreach Lunch program Pollard Hall</p>	<p>25@ FPC 6:00PM Joint Session meeting 7:00PM FPC Session meeting</p>	26	27	28
<p>29 MPC Bring a Friend Sunday 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship 11:30-12:30 Bible Study</p>	30					