

The Messenger & Stirling Stuff

SUMMER 2024 NEWSLETTER

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling and Meyersville Presbyterian Church

PASTOR'S NOTE

What if someone told you they believed in unicorns because the Bible says they existed? In the King James version of the Bible there are seven references to unicorns. In Psalm 22, the Psalmist asks God for protection *“from the horns of the unicorns”*.

The mystery of the unicorn in Bible begins over 200 years before the birth of Jesus—in a Bible known as the Septuagint. Scholars were translating the Hebrew scriptures into Greek. They came across an unfamiliar Hebrew word for a large, powerful, wild animal. They chose the Greek word for this wild animal which means 'one horned'. As history progressed, the Septuagint was used to translate the Bible into a Latin Bible (the Vulgate). In the Latin this creature translated 'unicornus'. In 1604, King James I of England commissioned a new Bible translation for the Church of England. The translators studied various Bibles as sources for their English rendition, including the Septuagint and the Vulgate. In their final translation, the name of the mystery animal was translated as 'unicorn.'

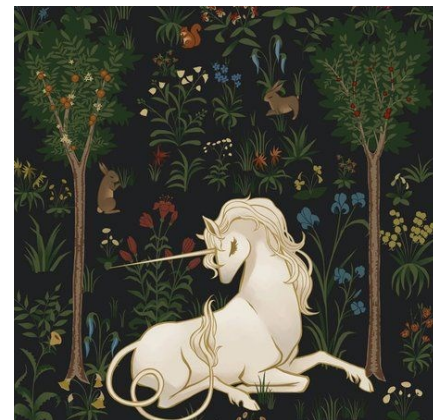
The animal referenced in 7 places in the Hebrew scriptures was a wild mountain ox. When this animal was drawn from the side it looked like a one horned bull. Calling it a unicorn was just a mistranslation. Modern versions have corrected this. Psalm 22 in our pew Bibles (NRSV) reads that God has rescued the writer *“from the horns of the wild oxen”*.

I acknowledge that reading the Bible is complicated. The 39 books we Protestants call the Old Testament were written in ancient Hebrew (and Aramaic). And the 27 books in the New Testament were written in a Greek not even spoken today in Greece. All of those 66 books were composed over 1500 years. We encounter poetry, narrative history, wisdom literature, epistles and much more in the Bible. All this makes reading and understanding this “book” difficult. It makes mistranslations of a one-horned animal being referred to as a unicorn happen. But reading the Bible is a must.

God has given **us** the scriptures. It is the inspired Word of God. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, the Bible is a window into understanding God's constant connection with us, from the beginning of time to today. By studying the scriptures, we start to understand God's steadfast loyalty, endless love, and boundless goodness. The Bible has been and is still misunderstood and even misused. Our forbearers fought in the reformation so that the Bible was accessible to everyone. Even if it is a complex work, it is not up to any small or vocal group to tell the ‘average’ Christian what it says. It is God’s Word given to all God’s people. So every one who cares about the messages taken from scripture, should strive to read the book for themselves.

We can do hard but important things together. Every other week 5 to 7 folks gather after church to study the Bible. I bring knowledge and tools. And together we all bring all our experiences, thoughts and questions. What we discover is not archaic or irrelevant. You (sadly) won’t find any unicorns. But something sacred happens when we engage these God-inspired words. The Spirit guides us. We laugh. We find guidance for our lives. God speaks. We often discover more questions. But truth is revealed and faith is grown when we turn to God’s Word in scripture. Join us Sunday June 30th and July 28th to study God’s Holy Book.

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel (aka Pastor Stefanie)



WORSHIP

JULY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

During July, our Sunday morning worship services will remain at the **First Presbyterian Church of Stirling**. Our worship time changes to **9:30am** starting on July 1st.

If you need a ride to church, please ask a fellow church member; they are happy to help. Our online services continue each week and are accessible through a link delivered by email.

Graze and Praise in August!

During the month of August, we will worship in Meyersville for "Graze and Praise," beginning with a covered dish supper at 6:00 p.m., followed by worship at 7:00 p.m. The main "protein" will be provided, but the congregation is invited to share a side dish, salad, or dessert. Sign-ups will begin in July. We will celebrate a Baptism on August 4th, 2024!



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Tatiana Akhounzianova has been the organist for the First Presbyterian Church of Stirling over 20 years, and our joint organist in recent years.

Her music has helped us to worship God with joy and reverence.

Tatiana has decided to move to be closer to family and will not longer be able to be our organist.

Her last Sunday is July 28, 2024.

A celebration of the years Tatiana Akhounzianova offered us the gift of music will be held on Sunday, July 21st.

Join us at 11:00am in Pollard Hall to thank Tatiana.



Worship continued...WEEKLY LECTIONARY READINGS**Sunday, July 7 (Proper 9)***Semicontinuous*

2 Samuel 5:1–5, 9–10

Psalm 48

2 Corinthians 12:2–10

Mark 6:1–13

Sunday, August 4 (Proper 13)*Semicontinuous*

2 Samuel 11:26–12:13a

Psalm 51:1–12

Ephesians 4:1–16

John 6:24–35

Sunday, July 14 (Proper 10)*Semicontinuous*

2 Samuel 6:1–5, 12b–19

Psalm 24

Ephesians 1:3–14

Mark 6:14–29

Sunday, August 11 (Proper 14)*Semicontinuous*

2 Samuel 18:5–9, 15, 31–33

Psalm 130

Ephesians 4:25–5:2

John 6:35, 41–51

Sunday, July 21 (Proper 11)*Semicontinuous*

2 Samuel 7:1–14a

Psalm 89:20–37

Ephesians 2:11–22

Mark 6:30–34, 53–56

Sunday, August 18 (Proper 15)*Semicontinuous*

1 Kings 2:10–12; 3:3–14

Psalm 111

Ephesians 5:15–20

John 6:51–58

Sunday, July 28 (Proper 12)*Semicontinuous*

2 Samuel 11:1–15

Psalm 14

Ephesians 3:14–21

John 6:1–21

Sunday, August 25 (Proper 16)*Semicontinuous*

1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10–11) 22–30, 41–43

Psalm 84

Ephesians 6:10–20

John 6:56–69

LITURGISTS NEEDED FOR WORSHIP SERVICES

Liturgists are needed each week for both the in-person and online worship services. Recordings are typically done late afternoon on Thursdays (other arrangements can be made, if needed). To sign up, please contact James Thorn (MPC), or leave a message at your church office. Your readings will be emailed to you, along with confirmation of the location and time for the online recording.

GARDEN FLOWERS WELCOME

Do you have flowers in your garden that you would like to share? We would love to have fresh flowers in the sanctuary for our in-person and online worship services. Please leave a message at your church office or email Rev. Muntzel (StefanieMinfaith@gmail.com) to let us know when you would like to share your flowers.



WORSHIP

MISSION OF THE MONTH:

Each month the congregations of Stirling and Meyersville support a special group to receive our mission collection.



JULY: Angel Tree Christmas in July

There are so many requests from worthy charities during the Christmas season. Giving to our church Angel Tree might not be something you could do at that time of year. So why not give now? Funds collected in July will be used to purchase items which will be distributed during the holidays— to help give joy and practical support to children. We work with the Salvation Army who distributes gifts to the families with children who are part of their Plainfield program. Please make a donation in July and mark your envelop or check memo with Angel Tree.

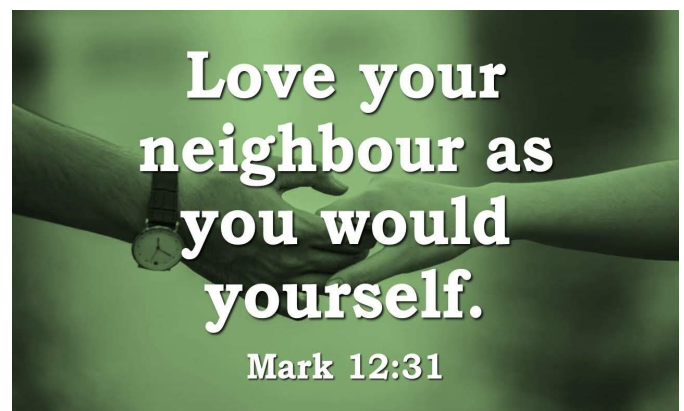
AUGUST: Bridges Outreach

Bridges Outreach seeks to make an impact on the lives of homeless folks living in Newark, Irvington, Summit, and NYC. Their mission is “Bridges ends homelessness through volunteer-driven outreach and individual case management focusing on health, housing and independence. We form relationships with those experiencing homelessness while meeting their most urgent needs.” They have provided lunches, socks and underwear, toiletries, soup, and clothing to over 21,000 homeless folks. In addition, they also provide case management services at their Project Connect office in Newark, see folks in Summit every Friday for their Neighbors in Need program, and for more than 1,000 children eligible for free and reduced lunch in Summit and sheltered children in Newark and Irvington, they provide new backpacks and school supplies. Please make a donation in August and mark your envelop or check memo with Bridges Outreach or BO.

BRIDGES LUNCH PROGRAM

Won't YOU help provide bag lunches to the homeless in Newark, Irvington, and NYC?

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. Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: Tuesday, July 30, 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.



Mission continued

TWELVE BASKETS FOOD PANTRY

Twelve Baskets Food Pantry is working out of the First Presbyterian Church of Stirling in July and August (and in September).

Shelf stable food, as well as meat, dairy products, eggs, and fresh produce are available for food insecure families our area.



in



First and Third Thursdays

11:30am-12:30pm for Seniors (age 60+)

5pm-6pm Pantry Open

Because of the 4th of July holiday the pantry will be held: July 11th and July 25th.

Twelve Baskets Food Pantry is a cooperative project of First Presbyterian Church of Stirling, Meyersville Presbyterian Church, All Saints’ Episcopal Church, Long Hill Township CERT & Community Services.

HOUSEKEEPING

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

VACATION

Rev. Muntzel will be on vacation from July 2nd to July 17th. Rev. Culton is available in emergencies. If you need pastoral care please contact the church office or a Session member and they will have Rev. Culton reach out to you.

NEW CHAIR LIFT AT MEYERSVILLE !

A **brand new** chair lift has been purchased and installed for more accessibility on the stairs leading down to Fellowship Hall!

If it makes it easier for you, we welcome you to use the lift!



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND CARE

DEACONS CORNER



Coffee Hour Hosts

Hosts are needed for coffee hour. If you are able to host in July, please be in touch with Susan Gerecht (FPC). Hosts in August are not needed, but everyone is welcome to contribute to the Graze and Praise evening "meal." Look out for Sunday sign-ups.

Cards of Care

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

MEYERSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - Deacon, Carol Boyle

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF STIRLING - Deacon, Kimberly Ridway

Bible Study

Our studies of God's Holy Book continue on Sunday June 30th and July 28th. Something sacred happens when we engage the God-inspired words of the Bible. The Spirit guides us. We laugh. We find guidance for our lives. God speaks. We often discover more questions. But truth is revealed and faith is grown when we turn to God's Word in scripture.

Bible Study will be paused in August and return on Sundays in September.

NO FOURTH SUNDAY FOCUS IN JULY AND AUGUST!



Congratulation to Marjolein Zijdel on
the birth of Zoey Mariella Zijdel !

Born June 6th, 2024

weighing 5 lbs 4 oz.

JULY

BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST

- 2 Barbara Peters
- 7 Tatiana Akhounzianova
- 8 Sandy Mackay
- 12 Bert Lare
- 25 Mae Ann Higgins
- 30 Alice Linden
- 4 Fritz Kielblock
- 8 Jacob Kielblock
- 9 John Leski
- 13 Marcie Skrobacz
- 13 Joan McCloskey
- 14 Mansour (Matthew) Minaian
- 16 Marion Barker
- 18 Cheryl Skrobacz Bruno
- 25 Marc Beltz



- 2 Barbara Aspinall
- 16 Fritz Kielblock, Jr.
- 17 Benjamin Kantor
- 23 Roberta Keller
- 30 Lisa Kielblock
- 31 Kelly Roshto
- 2 Ian Blakeslee
- 2 James Karl Palmer
- 6 Lisa Monetti
- 7 Sue Wermuth
- 12 Olivia Linden
- 13 Sharon Alongi
- 14 Kai Ihringer
- 18 Tierney Gallagan
- 18 Howard Kupferman
- 19 Brooke Kupferman

Anniversaries

Chrissie and Bill DiBartolo on July 3rd
 Sue and Paul Wermuth on July 22nd

Lisa Wernett & Kai Ihringer on August 15th
 Sharon and Tony Alongi on August 24th



PRAYERS Please pray for ...

Steven Augen
 Justin Byrnes
 Christy Witlox D'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 Thyss
 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
 Jan LaBerty

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

Dianne Thorn
 James Thorn
 Zoe Williford
 Ellen Winter

July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship Location: First Presbyterian Church of Stirling	1	2 Rev. Muntzel *Vacation	3 *	4 	5 *	6
7 9:30am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship *	8	9 *	10 *	11 12 baskets Food Pantry 11:30-12 5-6 @FPC	12 *	13
14 9:30am Worship With Guest Preacher 10:30 am Fellowship *	15	16 *	17 Rev. Muntzel Back in Office Concert Mtg. @FPC	18	19	20
21 9:30am Worship With communion. 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 Tatiana Celebration	22	23	24 FPC Session Meeting	25 12 baskets Food Pantry 11:30-12 5-6 @FPC	26	27
28 9:30am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 Bible Study	29	30 @FPC 9:30am Bridges Lunch Program	31 6:30 Zoom Building & Grounds			

AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship location: Meyersville Presbyterian Church				1 12 baskets Food Pantry 11:30-12 5-6 @FPC	2	3
4 @MPC Graze &Praise 6pm Covered Dish 7pm Worship Service BAPTISM	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 @MPC Graze &Praise 6pm Covered Dish 7pm Worship Service	12	13	14	15 12 baskets Food Pantry 11:30-12 5-6 @FPC	16	17
18 @MPC Graze &Praise 6pm Covered Dish 7pm Worship Service	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 @MPC Graze &Praise 6pm Covered Dish 7pm Worship Service	26	27	28	29	30	

The Messenger & Stirling Stuff is the **combined newsletter** of
The Meyersville Presbyterian Church and The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling.
The deadline for the September newsletter is Tuesday, August 20th.

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

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES OF LONG HILL !

We are...

Meyersville Presbyterian Church & The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling

We are partnering together to worship God and serve Long Hill Township.

We share worship, mission, staff and Bible study.

Two Churches, One Ministry



First Presbyterian Church of Stirling

158 Central Ave.

Stirling, NJ 07980

908-647-1033

Meyersville Presbyterian Church

223 Hickory Tavern Road

Gillette, NJ 07933

908-647-0390