



Stirling Stuff

Volume 61, No. 9

October 2017

Pastor's Letter

As I watched Trevor and Nancy share their vows with one another at their wedding, I couldn't help but think how perfect love is on the wedding day -- two people promising eternal love to each other. We know this does not always work out in the long run. But, in the beginning, there is so much hope and joy.

As we look forward to the month of October, I am mindful that there are a number of opportunities for us to share love and express a love that is filled with hope and joy. We begin with World Communion on October 1st, a day when we recognize and share in our connectedness with people around the world. I think of the CROP Walk on October 15th, when we walk so people in our country and around the world can be fed and saved from starvation. We will end the month with the study of the book, *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, on October 22nd and 29th after church. This book looks at the problem of racism and how, even today, black people are denied some very basic rights and are the recipients of hate from people in our own country. However, it does it in a way that gives us hope for our future.

We want to believe that our country is a country that loves people and cares for them. In some case, that it true; but, in others, we are still far from that ideal love. The good news is that God does love us like that. God is the love of the couple on their wedding day and, for God, it never ends - - it is every day! We can give thanks to God for that love. We can, and must, also ask God to give us the courage and the will to love others like God loves us.

I pray that God will bless the love that Trevor and Nancy have for each other. I also pray that God will give me and all of us the courage to reflect the love of God to all people we meet in our daily lives, no matter their religion, their sex or gender, their ethnicity, or the color of their skin.



See you in Church!

Tom

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for October

October 1, 2017

- *World Communion Sunday*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Meyersville Presbyterian Church will join us*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection*
Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16;
Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32
Letting Go

October 8, 2017

- *Pentecost 18A*
Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19;
Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46
Do We Want To Know What God Is Saying?

October 15, 2017

- *Pentecost 19A*
Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23;
Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14
Why Did You Do It Aaron?

*Child Care is provided in the Nursery.
Children join their families in church and then leave for
Christian Education classes after the Children's Talk.*

*Worship begins at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings,
followed by Fellowship Hour in Pollard Hall.*

October 22, 2017

- *Pentecost 20A*
Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99;
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22: 15-22
Where Is The Dividing Line?

October 29, 2017

- *Pentecost 21A*
- *Reformation Sunday*
Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17;
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46
Law Versus Gospel
Romans 3:19-31

**Scriptures that are listed after the first Gospel
reading are non-lectionary passages
that will be used in the sermon.
All the scriptures are provided here for
any weekly Bible reading you may do.**

Rev. Peters' sermons and the scripture readings
are posted on the church website.
Visit: www.fpcstirling.org, click on:
"Sermon Archive," then select the sermon
and/or scripture reading date you would like.



Pastor's Coffee Klatch

The monthly Coffee Klatch will be on **Sat., October 7th, 9:00 a.m.**, at the Stirling House Diner. We talk about whatever is on your mind. Join us for fellowship and conversation.



Annual Congregational Election Meeting

The Session has called a meeting of the Congregation to be held immediately following morning worship on **October 29th**. The purpose of this meeting is to elect new church officers for terms beginning February 2018. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting.



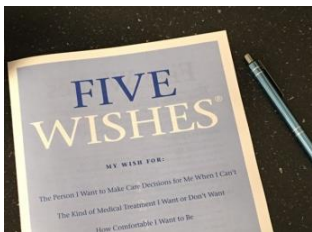
CROP Walk, October 15th**- Debra Sprague**

On **October 15th at 1:30 p.m.** we will be walking to end hunger! The 3-mile walk will begin and end at the United Methodist Church, 1441 Springfield Avenue, New Providence, where we will join walkers from other churches and groups. In 2016, the New Providence Walk raised over \$7,200 for Church World Service CROP; more than \$1,800 (25%) of those funds were directed to the St. John's Soup Kitchen in Newark.



Pictured: FPC-Stirling 2016 Walkers

If you want to walk, we would love to have you join us. See Rev. Peters for your Walk packet. You can register on line at: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/newprovidencenj/Team/View/47055/First-Presbyterian-Church-of-Stirling>

Five Wishes**- Rev. Peters**

Many of you attended the *Five Wishes* session we held last winter. *Five Wishes* is a program that helps individuals to think about what they want and don't want in their last days, when they may not be able to make their own decisions. It also guides you through finding a health care agent and sharing your wishes with your family.

We had planned a follow-up session for October to give you an opportunity to ask questions and share how you are doing with it; however, due to scheduling conflicts, we have moved it back to **Sunday, November 19th**, during an extended fellowship hour following worship. We hope you will join us. If you could not make the program last winter, we still have some booklets we would be happy to share with you.

Fall Fund Raiser – Comedy Night

On **Saturday, October 21st**, at **8:00 p.m.**, we will be hosting a **Comedy Night Fundraiser** in Pollard Hall. **We have to sell tickets, which are \$35**, and include snacks, coffee, and soft drinks. Please talk it up to your friends and neighbors. If you can help out, please contact Ed Gerecht.

**Christian Education Committee****- Lore Pateman****Child Care/Nursery During Sunday Worship - We Need Your Help**

Proverbs 22:6 -- "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."

We have some small ones coming to church and want to remind everyone that having nursery is something our congregation has offered in the past, and it is important that we offer it now. It was one of the reasons I joined the church so many years ago (plus Rev. Peters and the wonderful folks at the church!). The church's policy is that there should always be 2 people in the nursery room. So, be prepared to help if asked some Sunday. Children are such a joy -- I'm sure it will start your Sunday off right!



Adult Bible Study

- Rev. Peters

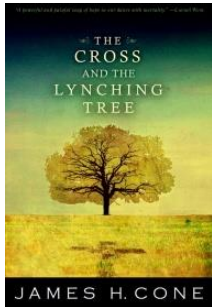


Our **Bible Study of the Gospel of Luke** continues on **Thursday mornings from 10:30 a.m. – noon**. We are hoping that Rabbi Randi Musnitsky of Temple har Shalom will join us for one of our classes in early October. I will let you know by e-mail when she is coming so that you can join us for that session if you would like. It will be an opportunity to ask her some questions that have come up during our study and also other questions you may have. We invite you to join us if you are able. We are using Rev. Dr. Fred Craddock's book, **Luke**.

Fourth Sunday Focus, October 22nd

- Tom Parziale

Fourth Sundays give us an opportunity to connect with other members of our church family in a relaxed atmosphere: a pot of tea, a Box o'Joe, Munchkins . . . and conversation. Our next "Fourth Sunday Focus" gathering will be on **October 22nd** in the meeting room. We start around **8:45 a.m.** and end by about 9:45 a.m., but join us whenever you can. **If you have a topic you'd like to discuss, contact Tom Parziale.**

Fall Book Study

- Rev. Peters

On **October 22nd and 29th**, there will be study sessions of the book, ***The Cross and the Lynching Tree***, by Dr. James Cone, following worship. Dr. Cone is a Professor at Union Theological Seminary in NYC, and he is one of the most respected theologians in the world today. I hope you will consider joining us for this two-session class. Bill Moyers writes, concerning the book, "*Once again James Cone demonstrates why he is indispensable as an interpreter of faith, race, and the American experience.*"

The book is only 166 pages, but it takes time to read. You may order it on Amazon.com. Please sign up on the C.E. board in Pollard Hall so we have an idea of how many are coming. **We will have a potluck brunch prior to the October 22nd session; please bring a dish to share.**

Worship Committee

- Janet Parziale

Liturgists for October:

Oct. 1	Tom Parziale	Oct. 22	Janet Parziale
Oct. 8	Jan Somers	Oct. 29	
Oct. 15	Debra Sprague		



If you would like to serve as Liturgist during worship, please sign up on the sheet in Pollard Hall or speak to Jan Somers.

Non-Perishable Food Collection, October 1st

On the **first Sunday of each month**, we collect donations of non-perishable food during the worship service. While we are receiving the Lord's Supper, we also want to provide for others. The food is donated to the township food pantry at St. Vincent Church. We continue to collect non-perishable food in the baskets located in the church entry-ways during the rest of the month.



***Following is a list of items needed at the food pantry:**

Spaghetti Sauce (large jar)

White Rice: 2 or 5 pound bags

Macaroni and Cheese

Canned vegetables:

corn, carrots, beets, mixed veggies, yams

Breakfast food: Pancake mix, jelly, coffee, tea

Jello Gelatin

Canned Beans: Cannellini, Garbanzo

Dry Beans: Black, Kidney, Pinto

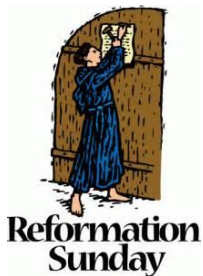
Spaghetti (long pasta only)

World Communion Sunday, October 1st

On October 1st, we will celebrate World Communion Sunday. The congregation of the Meyersville Presbyterian Church will join us in Stirling for this service.

In 1936, the first Sunday in October was celebrated as World Communion Sunday in Presbyterian churches in the United States and overseas. After a few years, the idea spread beyond the Presbyterian Church.

We will symbolize this day by using different breads for communion, and members of both congregations will be reading scripture passages in their native language. We hope you will join us for this special service.

**Reformation Sunday, October 29th**

October 29th is Reformation Sunday, the day when Presbyterians celebrate the tradition that grounds their faith. It is always the last Sunday in October, marking the occasion in 1517 when Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany. Martin Luther contributed to major theological reform by translating the Bible into vernacular German, which allowed people to hear and read the gospel of Jesus Christ in their own language. Plan to join us for this important day in our Church's history.

Looking Ahead:**All Saints Sunday, November 5th, in Meyersville**

On November 5th, we will be observing **All Saints Sunday**, a day when Christians give thanks for all the good people God has placed in their lives. During this service, we will take time to remember those special people we have lost during the past year, and a candle will be lit as each name is read aloud.



Please **complete the following form**, and place it in the offering plate during morning worship, or send it to the church office **by Monday, October 30th**. Forms will also be available in the Church bulletins.

All Saints' Sunday, Nov. 5th

Please list anyone special you have lost during the past year
and would like to have remembered during the service:

Your Name: _____

Person's Name: _____ Relationship to You: _____

Please print clearly



Please place this form in the offering plate or send it to the church office by October 30th. Thank you.

✂ _____ ✂ _____ ✂ _____ ✂ _____ ✂ _____

Deacons Corner

– Katherine Ihringer

Mission of the Month

Our *Mission of the Month* for October is **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**.

The funds collected will be directed to victims of the recent hurricanes.

Please support this program and the aid it will provide.

**Fellowship Hour**

I just want to remind everyone to sign up to host Fellowship Hour. It does not have to be complicated. Or, if you don't want to host, but would like to donate towards someone else hosting, that would be great, too.

Church Flowers

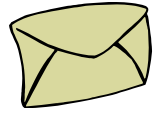
Please sign up on the Flower Chart in Pollard Hall if you would like to place flowers on the chancel for Sunday morning worship in honor or memory of someone. Allow enough lead time to have them ordered for the date you would like. The cost is \$30, and cash or checks (made payable to: Flowers on the Ridge) should be given to Israel Sierra.



When you sign up on the flower chart, please be specific, i.e. *in memory/honor, given by*, and print clearly.

Deacons' Fund

Please use the green Deacons' Fund envelopes for donations to help the Deacons with their Mission work. They are available in the pew racks or in the church office and may be placed in the offering plate. **Remember to put your name on the envelope so you can receive credit for your donation.** Thank you!

**Buildings & Grounds – Facilities****- Tom Parziale**

Thanks to Edward and Jenny Chang, the church shutters have been removed, repainted, and reinstalled. They look great! A big **thank you** to the Changs!

Mission Programs**Bridges Outreach Lunch Program****- Jean Hoffman**

Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, Oct. 6th, 9:30 a.m.**, in Pollard Hall. We are always in need of small bottles of water and cartons of juice; snacks of cookies, nuts, Goldfish, pretzels, etc.; and plastic spoons. Cash donations are also appreciated to help with the purchase of bread and lunch meat. You can drop items off in Pollard Hall on Sunday mornings, or give cash donations to Madeline or Jean.

Upcoming dates: Nov. 3, Dec. 8, and Jan. 5

Family Promise Hosting, November 3-4

Our final 2017 responsibility for hosting Family Promise clients will be from dinner on Friday, Nov. 3rd, through breakfast on Sat., Nov. 4th, at Trinity House in Stirling. We need volunteers to provide dinner, serve as hosts for dinner, stay overnight with the guests, provide breakfast, and

serve as hosts on Saturday morning. The dinner menu will include **pizza, salad, and dessert**. **Breakfast will include pancakes.** We would appreciate monetary donations for the pizza, as well as salads and desserts. A sign-up sheet will be posted in Pollard Hall. Come, help out, and get a taste for just how difficult it is to be homeless.

Community Food Bank, November 18th**- Kai Ihringer**

The date of our next trip to the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, in Hillside, has been **rescheduled** from October 21st to **November 18th**. This is a great opportunity to help fulfill our church's mission of "Feeding Those Who Hunger," while also enjoying the comradery of our fellow volunteers. Please reach out to community members who may be interested in joining us. Contact Kai if you can help out on Nov. 18th.

Here is the relevant information:

Date: Sat., Nov. 18th

Departure: Meet at 8 a.m. in the church parking lot;
leave for Hillside by 8:15 a.m.

Food Bank Slot: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Return: Back at church parking lot between 11:30 a.m. and Noon



World Food Day, October 16th

The day after this year's CROP Walk is **World Food Day**, a day of action against hunger. Join the global movement to end hunger. Be a part of the solution in your community and around the world because, when it comes to hunger, the only acceptable number is **zero**.

**Member-Abilia**

Congratulations to Warren Hoffman, who celebrated his 95th birthday on September 4th. Thank you to Jean for sharing this wonderful picture of Warren enjoying his special day.

Happy Birthday, Warren!

Church Archives

Please remember to forward news clippings, bulletins, programs, pictures, or other memorabilia regarding any member of our church family to the church office so our archives can be kept up-to-date. There is a **Church Archives** mailbox outside the church offices for this purpose. If you are interested in helping to keep the archives current, please speak to Rev. Peters or Jan Somers.

**Church Website**

Our Church website, www.fpcstirling.org, is a good source for church news, the Church calendar, Stirling Stuff, upcoming events/programs, Pastor's sermons, Scripture readings, Church history, and more. Please make it a point to log on regularly and keep up-to-date with what's happening.

These Days

"These Days has been the concrete expression of the church's witness to the love of Jesus Christ to the world for more than three decades."

Our Church has a subscription for multiple copies of this devotional booklet; they are available on the table in the Church narthex.



Free Gentle Yoga Class – Meyersville Presbyterian Church

Roseanne McGraw, a certified yoga teacher, programs, Roseann McGraw, a certified yoga teacher, is teaching free yoga classes in the parlor at Meyersville Presbyterian Church on Tuesdays, from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. The classes are on-going, so you can join at any time.



You will not be sitting or lying on the floor, so just bring yourself in comfortable clothes, and invite friends along. The classes are appropriate for all, the flexible as well as the tight. Injuries will be accommodated. Yoga is relaxing, as well as good for general health; so, come give it a try.

Call or email Roseanne with questions or concerns: 908-508-1435, rosanne.mcgraw@gmail.com.

Labels/Box Tops for Education; Pop-Top Can Tabs**- Jan Somers**

Please continue to save Labels for Education, Box Tops for Education, and pop-top can tabs. The labels are used by parent organizations in schools to earn educational and recreational items for students.



The can tabs are sold by weight to recycling centers, and the proceeds are donated to assist people on dialysis.

There is a collection canister in the church office. Thank you.

Community News/Items of Interest**- Jan Somers**

Please forward items you would like to have included in upcoming Stirling Stuff issues to Jan Somers, or place them in the "Stirling Stuff" mailbox outside the church offices. Thank you.

Ongoing Mission Programs

Road to Bridges

Change (and more) is collected during Fellowship Hour and supports the Road to Bridges program, providing 40 lunches per month to NJ/NY homeless.

Township Food Pantry

Non-perishable items can be left in baskets labeled "Food Pantry Donations" in the Church narthex and outside Pollard Hall.

Items collected for various causes; may be placed on the pew in Pollard Hall:

- ✓ Full-sized and "courtesy"-sized bars of soap, shampoo, conditioner, shower caps
- ✓ Cell phones, eyeglasses, sunglasses
- ✓ Fabric: about ½ yard minimum, to make small bears for children, totes for wheelchair patients, etc.
Yarn: to make lap robes for wounded veterans, afghans for battered women, and hats for newborns in hospitals

Ongoing Fundraisers

ShopRite Gift Cards

- ✓ No additional cost to you to use
 - ✓ Purchase cards at face value
 - ✓ Church earns 5%
 - ✓ Denominations available are:
\$20, \$50, \$100
- Gift Cards are available each week during Fellowship Hour or by contacting Madeline Hahl.

iGive

- ✓ No cost to you
- ✓ Log on / sign up / find out more at:
<http://www.igive.com/FirstPresbyterianChurch-StirlingNJ>
- ✓ E-mail this information to your friends

Please e-mail submissions for the November issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by **October 19th**. Thank you!

Stirling Stuff is the newsletter of

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Our Mission

Jesus said, "Feed My Sheep." This welcoming and caring family, empowered by the love of Christ, shares the grace and peace of God's blessings by serving those who are hungry in body or spirit.

Why not invite a friend to church?

