



# *Stirling Stuff*

**Volume 62, No. 10**

**November 2018**

## ***Pastor's Letter***

Daylight is growing shorter more quickly as we enter the days of November. The trees are shedding their shade-inducing leaves and are gaining the starkness of winter. The air grows frostier with its biting cold. It all drives us to shut the storm windows, turn on the heat, and pull on the warmer clothes. We have begun our ascent to the season of winter.



November is a month that starts with All Saints Day remembrances of friends and family who have already traveled to the eternal realms of God. It is a month that ends with family and friends gathering to celebrate the many bounties of life that they have received. November is a month of thanksgiving. Some might wonder why we celebrate thanksgiving when life is going underground or in-house. Why not celebrate when life is bursting around us like it does in the spring? I would remind us that it is a harvest festival and recognizes the bounty of the harvest that sustains us. I would also say that, as we give thanks, we are reminded that God has sustained us with the harvest, and we can count on God to sustain us in the coming year(s).

On Sunday, October 21, I talked in my sermon about the mystery of God and how our faith allows us to worship God and trust God in spite of the mystery. Our faith also allows us to look into the mystery of the future and have faith that God will be with us. So, Thanksgiving can also be a celebration of the promise of God that God will go with us into the mists of the future--of the faithfulness of God. That is truly something for which we can be thankful!

See you in Church!

*Tom*



The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling  
**Feeding Those Who Hunger**

## Worship Services and Scripture Passages for November

### **November 4, 2018**      **\*Service at Meyersville Church**

- Pentecost 24B
- Sacrament of Holy Communion
- Celebration of All Saints Day  
Ruth 1:1-18; Psalm 146;  
Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34  
*Rev. Barbara Aspinal preaching*

### **November 11, 2018**

- Pentecost 25B
- Travnicek Memorial Ringers will be playing  
Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17; Psalm 127;  
Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44  
*How Do You Hear Jesus' Words?*

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



### **November 18, 2018**

- Pentecost 26B  
1 Samuel 1:4-20, 2:1-10;  
Hebrews 10:11-25; Mark 13:1-8  
*When We Make Assumptions . . .*

### **November 25, 2018**

- Reign of Christ Sunday  
2 Samuel 22:1-7; Psalm 132:1-18;  
Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37  
*The Dissonance of the Kingship of  
Jesus and Worldly Powers*

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**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.**

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Rev. Peters' sermons and the scripture readings  
are posted on the church website.

Visit: [www.fpcstirling.org](http://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 **Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00 a.m.**, at the Stirling House Diner. We talk about whatever is on your mind. Come join the fellowship and conversation.



### **Change Your Clocks!**

On **Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**, be sure to turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed, or you will be getting to church in Meyersville on the 4<sup>th</sup> an hour early!

**Travnicek Memorial Ringers**

Our handbell choir will be playing *Tuya Es la Gloria / We Sing of Your Glory* on **Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>**, during morning worship. Please join us to enjoy this beautiful music.

**The Concert Series in Stirling**

On **Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 p.m.**, we will welcome back pianist Olga Gurevich. Ms. Gurevich opened our 2017-18 Concert Series with a wonderful performance that was very much enjoyed by all who attended.



The concert is free; a free-will offering is accepted. A short reception follows the concert, during which guests may meet the performer. Refreshments will be served. We hope you will invite your family and friends, and join us for beautiful music played in our sanctuary.

If you would like to help with the concert series, please contact Rev. Peters, Howard Kupferman, or Debra Sprague.



On October 14<sup>th</sup>, we opened our 2018-19 Concert Series by welcoming pianist Alessandra Tiraterra, pictured here with Rev. Peters. Everyone enjoyed an afternoon of beautiful music, including a special piece written by Ms. Tiraterra.

**Family Promise of Morris County**

Our final 2018 responsibility for hosting Family Promise clients is from **5:00 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, through the morning of Friday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, at Trinity House in Stirling.** We are serving a dinner of meatloaf, salad, vegetables, and dessert.

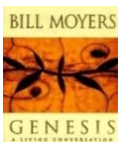
There will be a sign-up sheet in Pollard Hall in the coming weeks. Please sign up to help out by providing food for dinner, hosting dinner, or staying overnight. Contact Rev. Peters if you have questions.

**Christian Education Committee**

**- Lore Pateman**

**Adult Bible Study**

**- Rev. Peters**



We are continuing our Bible Study on Thursday mornings from 10:30 AM to 12 Noon. We are slowly making our way through the book of Genesis using the book, *Genesis*, by Bill Moyers. It is a study that takes us into many different discussions, which we enjoy. We would love to have you join us. The coffee pot is always on!

**Fourth Sunday Focus, November 25<sup>th</sup>****- 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 **November 25<sup>th</sup> 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've never participated or haven't attended for a while, why not join us on the 25<sup>th</sup>; we always have lively discussions on a wide variety of topics. **If you have a topic you'd like to discuss, contact Tom Parziale.**

**Worship Committee****- Janet Parziale**

**Liturgists for November:**

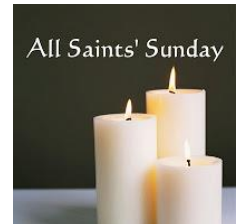
Nov. 4	Meyersville	Nov. 18	Tom Parziale
Nov. 11	Janet Parziale	Nov. 25	Edward Chang



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

**All Saints Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, in Meyersville**

On **Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>**, at the **Meyersville Presbyterian Church**, 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 plan to attend this very moving service.

**Non-Perishable Food Collection (Fruit Cocktail), November 4<sup>th</sup> - in Meyersville**

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.

The congregation at Meyersville Presbyterian Church has pledged to donate canned mixed fruit, sometimes labeled "fruit cocktail," to the township food pantry. **Since we will be worshipping at Meyersville on November 4<sup>th</sup>, please consider bringing this item (preferably the kind in juice and not syrup) to donate when we are there.**

**Looking Ahead:****Heritage Sunday**

On **December 2<sup>nd</sup>**, our church will be celebrating Heritage Sunday. Bagpiper Dave Palladino will be playing. Please watch for more information in the December issue of Stirling Stuff, and plan to attend this special service.



**Deacons' Corner****- Janet Parziale****Mission of the Month: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) - Hurricane Relief**

The Mission of the Month for November is Presbyterian Disaster Assistance – Hurricane Relief. Over the past two months, there have been two major hurricanes, Florence and Michael. Hurricane Florence was a slow moving storm that caused severe damage in the Carolinas. Hurricane Michael was one of the strongest hurricanes on record and devastated the Florida Panhandle.



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER  
ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

If you would like to help support the relief efforts, please use the special **Mission of the Month offering envelopes** that can be found in the pew racks. To learn more about Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, please go to: <http://pda.pcusa.org/>. Any help you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

**Presbyterian Peacemaking Program**

The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program is a mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and a program of Compassion, Peace, and Justice Ministries, working toward transforming cultures of violence into communities of peace. This program *"inspires new approaches to active peacemaking, works to equip God's people to be compassionate and prophetic peacemakers, and connects communities of peace to learn from each other in shared accompaniment and take action together for the transformation of the world."*

**A special offering will be received during the month of November.** One quarter of the funds received for this mission will be used for local peacemaking programs chosen by our Mission Committee. The remaining three quarters are designated by the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly's peacemaking efforts. **Please use the special offering envelopes in the pew racks or note "Peacemaking" on your offering.** Thank you.

**Fellowship Hour**

Fellowship 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 after our busy work weeks. Please consider helping with this important part of our church life by signing up to host one yourself or with a partner or simply donating money to be used to provide some delicious goodies for the morning. If you wish to donate money, please give it to a Deacon or place it in the offering pew in an envelope marked "Fellowship Hour."



What is involved in hosting one? The coffee, tea bags, sugar, plates, napkins, and cups are all available in the kitchen. You can bring milk for coffee/tea (usually about a quart), juice (or simply use water), and some goodies (baked goods, fruit, pretzels, and popcorn are some examples) to set out on the table. If you need help setting up the coffee and tea, please feel free to ask any Deacon or other member of the congregation. Your Fellowship Hour can be as simple or as elaborate as you want. They are fun to do and thoroughly appreciated by everyone.

In an effort to save money and be more ecologically responsible, the Deacons have decided to use the ceramic coffee cups we have in the kitchen. If you are hosting Fellowship Hour, we hope you will join us in this effort. Thank you.

## Visiting Nurse

Joyce Koenig has volunteered to be a Visiting Nurse for members of our church. She will be making visitations on her own and with Rev. Peters and is also available to answer your health-related questions.



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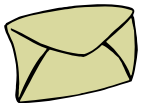
## Church Flowers

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.



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## 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.**

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## Water Available During Worship

There is a pitcher of water and cups available in the Church narthex in case you need a drink during worship. Please feel free to help yourself or signal an Usher to bring it to you.



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## Looking Ahead:

Look for more information on these upcoming events in the December Stirling Stuff:

### Decorating the Church for the Holidays

On **Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m.**, the Deacons will gather to decorate the sanctuary for the upcoming Advent season. Please consider joining the Deacons for this fun activity.

### Annual Community Carol Sing

Mark your calendars now for the **Annual Community Carol Sing on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** Invite your neighbors and friends and join us in singing Christmas carols by candlelight on the front lawn of the church.

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## Mission Programs

### Bridges Outreach Lunch Program

- Jean Hoffman



Our next commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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 Jean or Yvonne. If you'd like to help with this program, please speak to Jean or Yvonne.

**Upcoming date:** Dec. 7

**Community Food Bank****- Kai Ihringer**

Our next trip to the Community Food Bank of NJ in Hillside is on **Saturday, November 17**. 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.

Here is the relevant information:

**Date:** Sat., Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>

**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

Please contact Kai asap if you can help out on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Warm Winter Clothing Collection**

Jean Hoffman's daughter, Joyce Benz, notified us that the Mental Health Association is collecting **gently used coats, gloves, and scarves for children and adults**. We will be accepting these items for the next few weeks; please place your donations on the bench in Pollard Hall. Joyce will take them to the association for distribution. Thank you for supporting this very important project.

**Thanksgiving Turkey/Ham Donations**

**Thanksgiving is November 22<sup>nd</sup>**. The supermarkets are once again promoting free turkeys/ hams for the holiday season. As you sit down to enjoy Thanksgiving with your family, please remember those less fortunate, and consider donating a turkey or ham. At this time of year, there is great need for food donations, and organizations provide meals to a larger number of people.

**The church will be collecting the turkeys (please keep them frozen) and hams on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, November 18<sup>th</sup>**. They will be delivered to the Market Street Mission in Morristown for distribution. Your support of this program is very much appreciated.

**New Providence Area CROP Hunger Walk****- Debra Sprague**

On Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, members and friends of our church walked to fight hunger. The 3-mile walk in New Providence raised money to help Church World Service fight hunger around the world and raised awareness of hunger as they walked along the streets of New Providence holding *CROP* signs.

So far, our group has raised over \$500, and donations are still being accepted via our church's Mission of the Month offering for October or on-line at: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/newprovidencenj/FirstPresStirling>. It's not too late to let people know that you walked, and ask them to support the cause!

Our group of 8 was part of 108 people who walked in New Providence, and over \$6500 has been raised so far. That means that St. John's Soup Kitchen in Newark will receive at least \$1625! (25% of all funds raised on this walk.) THANK YOU to our walkers and everyone who sponsored them!



Pictured here is our group of walkers, from the left:

Debra Sprague, Elaine Giordano, Lynn Blakeslee, Lisa Wernett, Kai Ihringer, Jeff Blakeslee, Brooke Giordano, and Katherine Ihringer

### 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.



### Church Archives

- Jan Somers



Please continue to forward news clippings, bulletins, programs, pictures, or other memorabilia regarding any member of our church family so our archives can be kept up-to-date. **Please be sure items are dated and, if possible, the names of church members and/or families are highlighted.** 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 & Facebook Page

To keep up-to-date with what's happening at our Church, make it a point to check in regularly on the Church website, [www.fpcstirling.org](http://www.fpcstirling.org), and Facebook page, [https://www.facebook.com/fpcStirling/?ref=aymt\\_homepage\\_panel](https://www.facebook.com/fpcStirling/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel). They are good sources for church news, the Church calendar, Stirling Stuff, upcoming events/programs, Pastor's sermons, Scripture readings, Church history, and more.



## These Days

*"To nurture the daily practice of prayer and the reading of Scripture, there is solid help in the pages of 'These Days.' The devotions wrestle faithfully with the doubts, joys, and challenges of the Christian life."*



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

## Meyersville Presbyterian Church News

### Annual Bazaar and Turkey Dinner

On **Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**, the Meyersville Church will hold its **Annual Bazaar and Turkey Dinner**, from noon to 8:00 p.m. The bazaar features a Farmer's Market, Tricky Tray (raffle baskets), Baked Goods, Handmade Treasures, Holiday Shop, and Snack Shack. Turkey dinner seatings are at 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., and **reservations are required**. Take-out is also available. For more information or for dinner reservations, contact the church office at 908-647-0390 or [secretarympc@aol.com](mailto:secretarympc@aol.com).



### Free Gentle Yoga Class

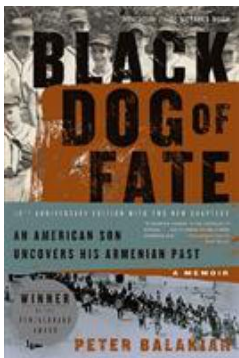
Roseann McGraw, a certified yoga teacher, offers free yoga classes in the parlor at Meyersville Presbyterian Church on Tuesdays, from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. The classes are on-going, so you can join at any time.



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](mailto:rosanne.mcgraw@gmail.com).

### Book Club

The Book Club is currently reading, ***"Black Dog of Fate,"*** a memoir by Peter Balakian . **They will meet in the parlor at Meyersville on Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m. to discuss the book.** Everyone is welcome to join the group. The book is available at local libraries.



*"Peter Balakian, of Armenian descent, has written a memoir that carries within it an urgent and timely appeal that a dark moment in world history not be revised out of existence. His mother and father and their mothers and fathers immigrated to America shortly after surviving the 1915 genocide by the Ottoman Turks, an event still disputed by some Turkish apologists. At issue are the million or so Armenian Christians raped, murdered, tortured, or left to die on a forced march into the desert. Ironically, the young Balakian, growing up in a comfortable New Jersey neighborhood, was sheltered from knowledge of the disaster."*

*"Spending Friday afternoon as a boy with his oddly magical maternal grandmother, helping her bake choereg, he felt he had 'access to some other world...something ancient, something connected to earth and words and blood and sky.' The mystical tales and dreams of his grandmother transform over time into body counts, government documents, eyewitness reports quoted at length, and family narratives at last given to the curious Balakian."*

**Community News/Items of Interest****– Jan Somers****Bridges Outreach Lunch Program**

On October 5<sup>th</sup>, kindergartners from the Long Hill Montessori School (LHMS), which is housed in our building, partnered with church participants in preparing our monthly Bridges donation of 40 lunches. The children assisted the church volunteers in filling the lunch bags. The school donated several boxes of individual snack packs to be included, and the kindergartners also provided decorated lunch bags to be used.

The students had helped their younger classmates with decorating the bags and collected food donations from families in the LHMS Community. We look forward to the school's continued participation with the Bridges program.

Pictured here: Church volunteers and LHMS staff and students:



## **Upcoming Concerts**

### **Somerset Hills Chorus**

Debra Sprague is a member of the Somerset Hills Chorus, which will be presenting "**Bernstein at 100**," a joyful celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Leonard Bernstein's birth. The **concert will be held on Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 p.m.**, at the Pingry School Hauser Auditorium, 131 Martinsville Road, Basking Ridge.

For more information and tickets go to: <http://musicsh.org/concerts/>

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### **Masterwork Chorus**

Rev. Peters is a member of The Masterwork Chorus, which will be presenting a **holiday concert** at the Chatham United Methodist Church, 460 Main St., Chatham Twp., on **Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 5:30 p.m.** This is the perfect way to welcome the holiday season. They will be performing Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* and other beautiful Christmas carols and ending with selections from Handel's *Messiah*.

For more information and tickets go to: <http://www.masterwork.org/season/upcoming/>

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**Don't Forget to VOTE**  
**Tuesday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>**



### **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 food 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 Yvonne Fletcher.

#### **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
- ✓ Questions? Contact Debra Sprague

**Please e-mail submissions for the December issue of Stirling Stuff to:**  
[jsomers17@hotmail.com](mailto:jsomers17@hotmail.com)  
by **November 18<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you!

***Stirling Stuff*** is the newsletter of

**The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling**

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**Why not invite a friend to church?**



### **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.

