



Stirling Stuff

Volume 62, No. 7

Summer 2018

Pastor's Letter

Is the Book of Genesis a historical account, or is it mostly myth? In a scientific age such as ours, how do we reconcile what the book says with what science has taught us about the origins of the earth and humanity? Can something that has not happened actually share a truth?

These are questions that need to be seriously considered when reading the first book of the Hebrew Scriptures. Starting the first Thursday of July (5th), the Thursday morning Bible study will begin a discussion of the Book of Genesis. We will be using Bill Moyers book entitled, *Genesis*. A description of the book by a PBS station in Kentucky says the following:

"Bill Moyers brings together some of the world's liveliest minds for spirited discussions on the Bible's first book, incorporating contemporary issues such as racism, the role of women, dysfunctional families, and environmental responsibility into the same forum as the eternal debates about the nature of faith, the struggle between good and evil, and the path to redemption."

I hope you will consider joining us; the discussion will be lively and stimulating. The cost of the hardcover book is \$7.10; if you would like me to order one for you, please let me know ASAP. The class starts at 10:30 a.m. and ends at noon. I always have the coffee pot on. We will continue through the summer except for the weeks that I'm away (July 19, 26, Aug. 2, 30).

As this is the last newsletter until September, I want to wish you all a safe and relaxing summer. I hope you will have the time to enjoy visiting family and friends, reading a good book or two, and coming to church.



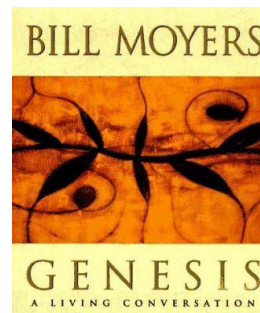
Please remember that from July 1st – August 26th worship will begin at 9:30 a.m.

During the month of July, we will be at First Presbyterian Church in Stirling; and, during the month of August, we will be at Meyersville Presbyterian Church. On September 2nd, we will be at Meyersville for an evening picnic and worship service (6:00 for dinner and 7:00 for worship; bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share).

See you in Church!

Tom

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger



Worship Services and Scripture Passages for July and August

July 1, 2018 9:30 a.m. in Stirling

- *Pentecost 6B*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection*
2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; Psalm 130;
2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43
What Law Needs to be Fulfilled?
Romans 13:8-14; Mark 2:23-3:6
Rev. Tom Peters preaching

July 8, 2018 9:30 a.m. in Stirling

- *Pentecost 7B*
2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Psalm 48;
2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13
Rev. Barbara Aspinall preaching

July 15, 2018 9:30 a.m. in Stirling

- *Pentecost 8B*
2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Psalm 24;
Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29
Rev. Barbara Aspinall preaching

July 22, 2018 9:30 a.m. in Stirling

- *Pentecost 9B*
2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Psalm 89:20-37;
Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
Rev. Barbara Aspinall preaching

July 29, 2018 9:30 a.m. in Stirling

- *Pentecost 10B*
2 Samuel 11:1-15; Psalm 14;
Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21
Rev. Barbara Aspinall preaching

Worship begins at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings, followed by Fellowship Hour.

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



August 5, 2018 9:30 a.m. in Meyersville

- *Pentecost 11B*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection – Fruit Cocktail*
2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a; Psalm 51:1-12;
Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:20-35
Rev. Tom Peters preaching

August 12, 2018 9:30 a.m. in Meyersville

- *Pentecost 12B*
2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33; Psalm 130;
Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51
Rev. Tom Peters preaching

August 19, 2018 9:30 a.m. in Meyersville

- *Pentecost 13B*
1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14; Psalm 111;
Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58
Rev. Tom Peters preaching

August 26, 2018 9:30 a.m. in Meyersville

- *Pentecost 14B*
1 Kings 8:22-30, 41-43; Psalm 84;
Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69
Rev. Tom Peters preaching

These scriptures are the lectionary readings for each Sunday and are provided here for your own Bible reading. The sermons will not necessarily be drawn from these readings.

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 held **Saturdays, July 7th and August 11th, 9:00 a.m.**, at the Stirling House Diner. We talk about whatever is on your mind. Come join the fellowship and conversation.

**Summer Offering**

As we enter the summer months, please remember that we still have bills to pay at the church. If you are going away and will miss some Sundays, please keep your offering up-to-date by donating for those Sundays ahead of time or promptly when you return. Our finances are very tight, and summer is traditionally a difficult time for the church financially. Thank you!

**The Concert Series in Stirling****- Debra Sprague**

Anyone who would like to help in some way with the 2018-19 concert series, please contact Rev. Peters, Howard Kupferman, or Debra Sprague.

Annual Fish & Chips Dinner

Our annual Argyles Fish and Chips dinner has been rescheduled for **Sat., September 22nd**. Once again, it will be held on the front lawn of the church – weather permitting. This is an “all hands on deck” event for our church. Please start talking it up with your friends and family.



As soon as we have the tickets, we will be asking everyone to help by selling as many as possible. The more tickets we sell in advance, the better chances there are for a successful dinner. This is not just a fund-raiser for the church; it is also a township event as we have people from the community who come and just enjoy the fellowship on the front lawn of the church. We will be asking for help with the many tasks to be done; please do your part to help us out.

Memorial Day Parade Thanks

Thank you to Sue Gerecht, Joyce Koenig, Joanne Sama, and Rev. Peters for their help in preparing and staffing our refreshment table during the Memorial Day Parade. Those who walked past our church while watching the parade were welcomed with a refreshing drink and a friendly smile.

**Christian Education Committee****- Lore Pateman****Adult Bible Study****- Rev. Peters**

Please see the information in “**Pastor's Letter**” on page 1 of this newsletter regarding the new Bible Study series on the Book of Genesis that will be starting in July.

Annual Church Picnic

Members of our congregation, along with our friends from the Meyersville church, had a great time sharing food and fellowship at our annual church picnic on June 3rd. As always, the egg toss was the highlight of the event.

Here are some pictures from the afternoon, including Egg Toss Winners Katherine Ihringer and Amanda Gerecht, and Rev. Peters cleaning up the "spoils":



Child Care on Sunday Mornings

We only need one more volunteer to sign up for our Sunday mornings in July (on the 15th), and we will have full coverage for the month. Our policy is to have 2 adults in the room with the children. "Child care" means that you'll be 'on call' to provide 45 minutes of care for one or more children who may show up for Sunday worship, taking them to the nursery after the *Children's Talk* part of the service. Reminder: the child care room is air conditioned!

If you have questions about what is involved, or need further information, please talk with Lore Pateman or Tom Parziale. When you are ready to volunteer, please see one of them, or sign up on the board in Pollard Hall, and ***thank you to everyone for your help.***

Here is the schedule of volunteers for July:

- 1 Evelyn Smith & Kai Ihringer
 - 8 Janet & Tom Parziale
 - 15 Shaylyn Gallagan & **VACANT**
 - 22 Jan Somers & Shaylyn Gallagan
 - 29 Jenny & Ed Chang
-

Christian Education 2018-19 Program



The Christian Education Committee is making plans for the 2018-2019 Sunday School program. We expect to have a "Nursery through Kindergarten" class which will meet weekly in the child care room. Lesson material will be provided to the leader. The room is stocked with snacks and drinks, which will be a regular part of the experience for these children. Our current plan is for a lesson to be used over the course of a month, providing the attendees with structure, repetition, and a solid message.

We also are planning for our older students, 5th & 6th graders. This group will likely meet one to two times a month, depending on the availability of the youth. We will continue the practice of working with the parents to help identify when the class can meet. We have purchased the ***Seasons of the Spirit***, Ages 12-14 curriculum, which provides substantial direction for the leaders of the class. Link to sample lesson: <https://www.seasonsonline.ca/412/417/>

Each class will need a leader and a helper. Please consider volunteering for one of these positions for whatever amount of time you can give. In the past, some people have volunteered for a month, and even that is very helpful. If you have questions about how you can help, please speak with a member of the Christian Education Committee (Lore Pateman, Rev. Peters, Tom Parziale, Debra Sprague, Susan Brodziak). Thank you for any help you can provide.

Fourth Sunday Focus, July 29th

- 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. **Due to vacation schedules, our next "Fourth Sunday Focus" gathering will be on the fifth Sunday, July 29th, in the (air-conditioned) meeting room.** Since morning worship starts at 9:30 a.m., we will start around **8:30 a.m.** and end by about 9:15 a.m., but join us whenever you can. **If you have a topic you'd like to discuss, contact Tom Parziale.**



***Since we will be worshipping in Meyersville in August, there will be no Fourth Sunday Focus for that month.**

Worship Committee

- Janet Parziale

Liturgists for June:

July 1	Tom Parziale	July 22	Edward Chang
July 8	Israel Sierra	July 29	Janet Parziale
July 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, July 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.





On Sunday, August 5th, we will be worshipping in Meyersville and receiving the Lord's Supper there. The congregation of Meyersville has pledged to donate canned mixed fruit, sometimes labeled "fruit cocktail," to the township food pantry. Please consider bringing this item (preferably the kind in juice and not syrup) to donate when we are worshipping there.

Summer Worship Schedule

Once again, we will be sharing summer worship services with our friends at Meyersville Presbyterian Church. This allows for each of our ministers to have vacation time without having to secure a guest minister.



For the month of **July, we will worship at 9:30 a.m. in Stirling.**

For the month of **August, we will worship at 9:30 a.m. in Meyersville.**

On **September 2nd, we will gather in Meyersville for an evening *Graze and Praise* service,** 6:00 for dinner and 7:00 for worship; bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share.

Deacons' Corner

– Janet Parziale

Mission of the Month



The **Mission of the Month for July and August is Family Promise of Morris County.** Please use the special offering envelopes in the pew racks, and label it with your name. Donations received will be directed to either First Presbyterian Church or Meyersville Presbyterian Church, based upon the name on the envelope.

Looking ahead, the Mission of the Month for September and October will be the Crop Walk.



Our Mission of the Month for June was the **Bridges Outreach Lunch Program.** Our church has supported this important program for many years by providing 40 brown bag lunches each month for distribution to the homeless. Your donations will be used to purchase items needed to prepare the lunches.

Here is some information on the Bridges Outreach Lunch Program, provided by Jean Hoffman, who has been our coordinator for many years:

- Established in 1988 and presently housed in a former church in downtown Summit
- Has 2,000 volunteers and serves 21,000 people
- Opens their doors every Friday for the needy to take showers and receive whatever they need, i.e. food, clothing, toiletries
- In 2017, they distributed 10,000 pairs of new socks and underwear, 65,000 brown bag lunches, 7,500 toiletry kits, and tons of clothing
- Received Grants and donations from local businesses and churches, allowing them to hire a social worker
- Offers some medical services, as well as help with finding jobs and shelter
- **Our Church** provides 480 lunches per year and is now collecting seasonal men's clothing, sneakers, jackets, etc.

Thank you for your ongoing support of this very much needed program right in our own back yard!

Our Mission of the Month for May was the **Church World Service (CWS) Blanket Month Appeal**. We received an enthusiastic response from our congregation, and the Deacons are happy to report that we will be sending \$380 to the Church World Service for the purchase of 38 warm woolen blankets for those in need, far exceeding our initial goal of ten blankets.

Thank you again to everyone who participated in this program!



Summertime Fellowship Hour

During the summer, our church and Meyersville Presbyterian Church will be sharing services. During the month of July, both congregations will be worshipping at our church. The Deacons need your help in hosting Fellowship Hour during July.



Summer is the easiest time to prepare Fellowship Hour since you only need to serve iced tea/lemonade/juice and water, along with some goodies. No hot coffee or tea! If you would like to host one Sunday in July, please sign-up in Pollard Hall on the Deacon board. If you have any questions or need help, feel free to speak to any Deacon.

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.

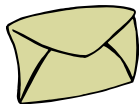


Church Flowers

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.**

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.



Mission Programs

Bridges Outreach Lunch Program

- Jean Hoffman



Our summer commitment dates for preparing 40 lunches are: **Fridays, July 13th and August 3rd, 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. If you'd like to help with preparing lunches, please speak to Jean.

Upcoming dates: Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, and Dec. 7

Buildings & Grounds/Facilities

- Tom Parziale

The Building & Grounds/Facilities group met on Sunday, June 10th, with over 30 items on our agenda. Here are some of the highlights:

- Upgrades are expected to continue on the Garbage Bin/Shed in the coming months as part of a Life Scout project. Sanding and painting are the keys.
- We are hoping to finalize plans for stoop repairs on the direct entrance to Pollard Hall.
- A subgroup is planning action for the grid work/ceiling tile issues in Pollard Hall.
- New Window Shades in Pollard Hall
Thanks to Jean Hoffman's generosity, Deacon Carolyn Malfatone was able to purchase new window shades for all the windows in Pollard Hall. We are working on repairing some of the window units. Once these repairs are made, the new shades will be installed.
- Long Hill Montessori School has a major facilities project scheduled. Work will start at the beginning of July and will be completed this summer. A small dumpster is expected onsite for a couple of early weeks of the project.



Church Archives

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

Our Church website, www.fpcstirling.org, is your best 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

"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.

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/box tops 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.



Boy Scout Troop 59

- Ed Gerecht

Boy Scout Troop 59, which our church sponsors, will be spending a week at Sabattis Adventure Camp in the Adirondack Mountains, July 21-28.



Free Gentle Yoga Class – Meyersville Presbyterian Church

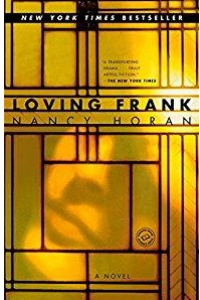
***Note:** There are no yoga classes during the summer; classes will resume in September.

Computer Classes at Meyersville Presbyterian Church

Ruud Zijdel from the Meyersville Church has completed his latest 12-week series of computer classes. This free, hands-on training of Windows 10 includes getting started and customizing Windows 10; Microsoft Word, Excel, and Publisher; surfing the web; sending and receiving emails; working with files; performing day-to-day tasks with Apps; editing documents; sharing your computer; and, implementing security. Please watch for information regarding future training dates.

Meyersville Presbyterian Church Book Club**- Jan Somers**

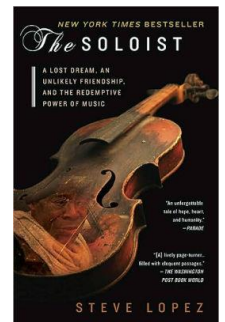
The Book Club is currently reading “Loving Frank,” a novel by Nancy Horan. They will meet in the parlor at Meyersville on Tuesday, Sept. 11th, 7:30 p.m. to discuss the book. Everyone is welcome to join the group. Please speak to Jan or Rev. Aspinall if you would like to borrow a copy of the book, and then join us on Sept. 11th for a lively discussion.



“I have been standing on the side of life, watching it float by. I want to swim in the river. I want to feel the current.” So writes Mamah Borthwick Cheney in her diary as she struggles to justify her clandestine love affair with Frank Lloyd Wright. Four years earlier, in 1903, Mamah and her husband, Edwin, had commissioned the renowned architect to design a new home for them. During the construction of the house, a powerful attraction developed between Mamah and Frank, and in time the lovers, each married with children, embarked on a course that would shock Chicago society and forever change their lives. In this ambitious debut novel, fact and fiction blend together brilliantly. While scholars have largely relegated Mamah to a footnote in the life of America’s greatest architect, author Nancy Horan gives full weight to their dramatic love story and illuminates Cheney’s profound influence on Wright. Elegantly written and remarkably rich in detail, Loving Frank is a fitting tribute to a courageous woman, a national icon, and their timeless love story.

Our next book selection is ***“The Soloist: A Lost Dream, an Unlikely Friendship, and the Redemptive Power of Music,”*** by Steve Lopez.

“When Steve Lopez sees Nathaniel Ayers playing his heart out on a two-string violin on Los Angeles’ Skid Row, he finds it impossible to walk away. At first, he is drawn by the opportunity to crank out another column for the Los Angeles Times, just one more item on an ever-growing to-do list: “Violin Man.”



Copies of “The Soloist” will be distributed at our September 11th gathering.

Community News

Warren Township is offering a Summer Concert Series on Wednesday nights from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. (rain dates are the next day). **Our own Ross Griswold & the Second Line will be playing on July 25th.**

Performances will be held either at the Municipal Courtyard or the Pavilion behind the complex. Both locations are at the same address, 46 Mountain Boulevard, Warren. Bring your lawn chairs and come enjoy some great music!

Happy 90th Birthday, Jean Hoffman

A special Fellowship Hour was held on Sunday, May 27th, to celebrate Jean Hoffman's 90th birthday. Our friends from Meyersville Presbyterian Church joined us for worship that morning, and they also shared in the festivities honoring Jean. Denise Szewczuk (Jan Somers' daughter) baked a special cake (Jean's favorite), and Paige Szewczuk played "Happy Birthday" on her violin before everyone joined in and sang to Jean. It was a wonderful celebration for a very special lady!



Memorial Service for Lynne Combs

A Memorial Service was held at St. Vincent de Paul Church on June 22nd to celebrate the life of Lynne Combs, who passed away at home on June 10th at the age of 76. Hundreds of people attended the beautiful service which was officiated by Rev. Tom Peters, Fr. Will Combs (Lynne and Bill's son), and Fr. Richard Carton from St. Vincents. Following the service, family and friends gathered at Primavera Regency in Stirling and shared their remembrances of Lynne. It was a wonderful celebration of a life well-lived and an opportunity to let Lynne's family know how many people she touched.

Please continue to keep Lynne's husband, Bill; their children, Whitney, Elizabeth, and Will; their grandchildren, and other family and friends, including our congregation, in your thoughts and prayers as we all move through this difficult time.

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

Please e-mail submissions for the Summer issue of Stirling Stuff to:

jsomers17@hotmail.com

by August 21st. Thank you!

Stirling Stuff is the newsletter of

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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.

Have a safe, relaxing, re-energizing summer. We hope to see you in Church when you are not traveling.