



Stirling Stuff

Volume 63, No. 8

Sept 2019

Pastor's Letter

As you read this, I will be getting ready to travel to Scotland for a two week tour (Sept. 7-21). Because of this, there will be some moving back and forth with Meyersville during the month. Please look carefully at the places of worship for each week in the September Worship Services section (page 2).



This trip is one I have wanted to take for many years. I find it incredibly fascinating to visit countries that have buildings and towns older than the 243 years our country has been independent. Scotland is also the home of the Kirk of Scotland (The Church of Scotland) from which our Presbyterian denomination got its start. We celebrate this every year during our Heritage Sunday Service. I will be visiting many religious sites on the trip. In Edinburgh, I will see places associated with John Knox, who is credited with the development of Presbyterianism in Scotland, and I will visit the Holy Island of Lindisfarne.



Lindisfarne was founded by St. Aidan, an Irish monk, who came from Iona, the center of Christianity in Scotland. St. Aidan converted Northumbria to Christianity at the invitation of its king, Oswald. St. Aidan founded Lindisfarne Monastery on Holy Island in 635, becoming its first Abbot and Bishop. The Lindisfarne Gospels, a 7th century illuminated Latin manuscript written here, is now in the British Museum.

Towards the end of my tour, I will visit the Island of Iona that the monk Columba came to from Ireland, bringing Christianity to Scotland. There is a wonderful Christian ministry there to this day.

I will also be visiting pre-Christian sites such as the Ring of Brodgar in the Orkney Islands on the coast of the North Sea at the top of Scotland. Of course I cannot go to Scotland and not visit our namesake, the town of Stirling and Stirling Castle.

Sometime this fall, I will do a brunch program on my visit to Scotland and look forward to sharing my pictures, experiences, and learnings from my trip. I will also have an itinerary of my trip up at the church while I am gone so you can see where I am or where I have been.

I will be back in the pulpit on Sunday, Sept. 22. I hope you will enjoy having my wife, Barbara, preaching on Sunday, Sept. 15th, and the added bonus is that Alison will be the liturgist for that service!

See you in church!

Tom

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for September

Sept. 1, 2019 Service in Stirling – 9:30 a.m.

- *Pentecost 12C*
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- *Non-Perishable Food Collection*
Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 81:1, 10-16;
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14
Who's At The Table

Sept. 8, 2019 Service in Meyersville – 10:00 a.m.

- *Pentecost 13C*
Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 138:1-6, 13-18;
Philemon 1:1-21; Luke 14:25-33
Rev. Barbara Aspinall Preaching

Sept. 15, 2019 Service in Stirling – 10:00 a.m.

- *Pentecost 14C*
Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14;
1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10
Rev. Barbara Peters Preaching

*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.*



Sept. 22, 2019 Service in Stirling – 10:00 a.m.

- *Pentecost 15C*
Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; Psalms 79:1-9;
1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13
Mark 9:30-37
Moving Worship To The Nursery

Sept. 29, 2019 Service in Meyersville – 10:00 a.m.

- *Pentecost 16C*
Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15; Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16;
1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31
Rev. Barbara Aspinall Preaching

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.



Change in Worship Time

****Please note on the schedule above that on September 1st worship will begin at our church at 9:30 a.m. The following Sundays will be back to our regular 10:00 a.m. time for worship.**

Pastor's Coffee Klatch

There will be no Coffee Klatch gathering in September. We will meet again on Saturday, October 5th, at the Stirling House Diner.



Travnicek Memorial Ringers

Bell Ringers will be starting up in September. The **first rehearsal will be Monday, Sept. 23rd, 7:30 p.m.** We can use several more ringers. As I've said many times, you don't need to be able to read music; you just have to be able to count. Speak with Rev. Peters if you think you might be interested.



Future of Long Hill Presbyterians (FLHiP) News

During August and early September, both our church and Meyersville Church have been/will be responding to questions about the past and future of our association with church and our feelings. **On Sept. 29th, we will be worshipping at Meyersville Presbyterian Church and, afterwards, there will be a brunch in their fellowship hall and each church will be doing a timeline project about their church.** This is an important meeting, and we need as many people as we can get to attend. Please plan to join us, even if you just come to the brunch and program after worship. You will not have to take the elevator or steps up to the sanctuary.

Weekly Offerings

Now that we are getting back to our normal routines, please remember to bring your pledges up-to-date. Our church finances are very tight, and summer is always a difficult time with people traveling and not attending worship regularly.

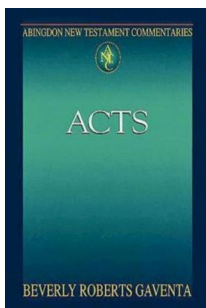


Christian Education Committee

- Lore Pateman

Adult Bible Study

- Rev. Peters



On Thurs., Sept. 26th, the Bible Study group will begin a study of the Book of Acts. We often think of the Book of Acts as just stories about the beginning of the Christian Church. However, it is more about a movement struggling with what it means to believe in God and Jesus and how to be followers of Christ. It was a very intense time for the early Christian movement.

Join us from 10:30-noon for coffee, fellowship, and good open discussion. We will be using **Dr. Beverly Gaventa's book, Acts.** You can order it from Amazon for \$16.60 (Paperback), or talk to me and I can order it for you and get free shipping with 3 or more books.

Fourth Sunday Focus, Sept. 22nd

- Tom Parziale

Fourth Sundays give us an opportunity to connect with members of our church family in a relaxed atmosphere: a pot of tea, a Box o'Joe, Munchkins . . . and conversation. The topics we have covered so far in 2019 are: Political Correctness, Friendship, Unlimited Imagination, Importance, Smiles and Laughter, Our True Heroes, and Competition. Related Scripture readings are read and discussed as a way of connecting the topics to our faith and beliefs.



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, please join us on the 22nd. **If you have a topic you'd like to discuss, contact Tom Parziale.**

Worship Committee**- Janet Parziale****Liturgists for June:**

Sept. 1: Jan Somers
 Sept. 8: Meyersville
 Sept. 15: Alison Peters

Sept. 22: Ed Gerecht
 Sept. 29: Meyersville



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, Sept. 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.

**Deacons' Corner****- Janet Parziale****Mission of the Month - September & October - CROP Walk**

For September and October, our Mission of the Month will be the CROP walk. Various members of our congregation will be participating in the **three-mile walk in New Providence on Sunday, October 20th**. You can participate by joining in the walk, sponsoring a walker from our church, or donating to CROP using the special Mission of the Month offering envelopes in the sanctuary pew racks. Please include your name on the envelope to receive credit for your donation.

**Update on the June Mission of the Month - CWS Blanket Sunday Program**

During the month of June, our congregation collected \$500.00 to be used toward the Church World Service Blanket Program. The Deacon's initial **goal for our congregation was fifteen blankets**. With the amazing enthusiasm of our church family, we far exceeded this expectation by **collecting enough for fifty warm woolen blankets** for those in need. A big Thank You goes out to everyone who participated in this worthy event. The Deacons would also like to extend a very special thank you to two anonymous donors who provided funds for nineteen blankets!

New Address for Ruth Young

Ruth Young, a long-time member and former Deacon and Elder of our congregation, has moved to Florham Park. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers. If you would like to send her a special note of cheer, please address your note to her in care of her daughter, Kelly Pedrazzi, using the address below.

Ruth Young
 c/o Kelly Pedrazzi
 31 Overlook Ave.
 East Hanover, NJ 07936



Fellowship Hour

Fellowship Hour is a very special time of fellowship following each weekly worship service. It is a wonderful time to share stories and catch up with each other after our busy 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 plate in an envelope marked "Fellowship Hour."

Ed Gerecht has put together instructions for preparing the coffee makers; the instructions will also be posted in the kitchen:



Instructions for Preparing Coffee Makers

1. Insert a filter, cone or flat, into the machine.
2. Fill machine with water, as full as possible. You can go slightly above the marked "Full" line.
3. Put about SIX scoops of coffee into machine, regular or decaf; coffee should fill about $\frac{1}{4}$ of filter.
4. Place a flat filter on top of the coffee. This prevents grounds from splashing into the water.
5. Start machine brewing at least one hour before the end of the service.

Need A Ride to Church?

If you ever find that you need a ride to church, either to Stirling or Meyersville, please feel free to call Janet Parziale (908-647-2212), another deacon, or the church office (908-647-1033). We would be happy to make arrangements to pick you up! We never want the lack of transportation to keep you from joining us for worship.

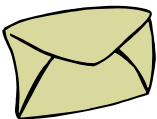


Visiting Nurse



Joyce Koenig is our congregation's Visiting Nurse. She makes visitations on her own and with Rev. Peters and is always available to answer your health-related questions. Thank you, Joyce!

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.**

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.



Water Available During Worship

There is always 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 next 2019 commitment date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Friday, Sept. 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 Jean or Yvonne. If you'd like to help with this program, please speak to Jean or Yvonne.

Upcoming dates: Oct. 4, Nov. 1, and Dec. 6

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.

**Buildings & Grounds**

- Tom Parziale

Upcoming Project

At a recent Session meeting, upgrades to the restrooms at the church complex were approved. Six toilets will be replaced, including the Ladies Room, Men's room, LHMS downstairs, and on the first floor of the manse. We plan to complete these upgrades over the upcoming months.

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, and Facebook page, 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.

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. Please speak to Jan or Rev. Peters if you'd like to help keep the archives up-to-date.

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.

Boy Scout Troop 59

- Ed Gerecht



Troop 59 attended Scout Camp Sabattis the week of July 21st. The weather was perfect, with only one partial day of liquid sunshine, and the food was great. Attending that week were four Scouts and three adult leaders. The Troop won the "Cleanest Camp Site" Award and participated in all of the activities. We may have been small in number, but we were BIG in spirit. The Scouts earned Merit Badges and had fun rock climbing.

I am very proud to be associated with Troop 59 on behalf of the Church. Remember to mention our Troop to any young man who wants to join Scouting.

Meyersville Presbyterian Church News



Art England

Long-time member and dear friend, Arthur England, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Tuesday, August 27th. Funeral arrangements have not yet been made. Please keep Art's sons, Roger and Art, Jr., and their family and friends in your prayers.

As you know, Art celebrated his 100th birthday on July 12th; he received 316 birthday cards to help with his celebrations!

Free Gentle Yoga Class



Meyersville member, Rosanne McGraw, a certified yoga teacher for 17 years, will resume the free gentle Yoga classes in the parlor on **Tuesdays beginning Sept. 10th, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.**

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. The classes are on-going, so you can join any time. Call or email Roseanne with questions or concerns: 908-508-1435, rosanne.mcgraw@gmail.com.

Meyersville Book Club

- Jan Somers

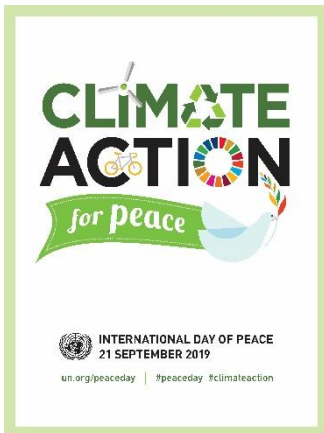
The Book Club's current selection is, **"A Place For Us,"** a novel by Dai Sijie. The group will meet in the parlor at Meyersville on Tuesday, Sept. 10th, 7:30 p.m. to discuss the book. Everyone is welcome to join the group. Copies of the book are available at local libraries.

Ecumenical 911 Candlelight Vigil



All are welcome to join for a **Candlelight Vigil on Wed, September 11th, 7:00 p.m., at the Tower of Remembrance, Shrine of Saint Joseph, 1050 Long Hill Ave., Stirling.**

The Tower of Remembrance is a place where everyone can reflect on the sacredness of lives remembered. The 35-foot Tower Memorial is dedicated to the memory of all those who lost their lives on 9/11. This Tower, emerging from the rubble of violence, reminds us that in God there is hope; that as we remember, we heal.



International Day of Peace, September 21st

The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly. Two decades later, in 2001, the General Assembly unanimously voted to designate the Day as a period of non-violence and cease-fire.

The United Nations invites all nations and people to honor a cessation of hostilities during the Day and to otherwise commemorate the Day through education and public awareness on issues related to peace.

Summer Guests at Meyersville

We had two special guests attend a Sunday morning service at Meyersville in August. Samantha and Thomas DiBartolo joined grandparents, Janet and Tom Parziale, for worship and fellowship hour.



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 October issue of Stirling Stuff to:

jsomers17@hotmail.com

by September 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?

