



Stirling Stuff

Volume 64, No. 8

September 2020

Pastor's Letter

In his book, *Tattoos On The Heart*, Fr. Gregory Boyle tells a story about Mother Teresa:

Mother Teresa once told a roomful of lepers how loved by God they were and a "gift to the rest of us." Interrupting her, an old leper raises his hand, and she calls on him. "Could you repeat that again? It did me good. So, would you mind . . . just saying it again."



In September, we will be entering our 8th month of dealing with Covid 19. We all are tired of it, not just from dealing with the changes it has made to our lives, not just with the fear of catching it, but also of having to think about it, and being aware of it all the time. AND, we are entering the most divisive presidential election in modern times. Many people did not get the vacation they were hoping for this summer. People are tired, they are angry, and they are short with each other. We miss our old normal, but there doesn't really seem to be any attempt on the part of many to get along or to say something nice to those with whom they disagree.

I offer the story of Mother Teresa because it is something we all need to be reminded of---the importance of being kind and gracious to everyone. When we are kind to others, it humanizes them and enables them to be more human with us. This is a witness that the church of Jesus Christ can offer to the world. In my sermon on August 16th, I shared that anything we say or do that emphasizes an "us" and "them" separation is a sin. We are all in this together. Lately I've been reading Andrew Chaikin's book, *A Man On The Moon: The Voyage of the Apollo Astronauts*. It's a behind-the-scenes look at NASA's Apollo program. Chaikin shares some of Buzz Aldrin's thoughts from when he was on the moon with Neil Armstrong during Apollo 11:

By international agreement, no nation could claim the moon, even one that managed to go there . . . He (Aldrin) had an almost mystical sense of the unity of humankind, so strong that he felt as if he and Armstrong were not alone.

We are all together on this ball we call Earth, and we have to learn to get along. We have to care about and for each other. It's the only way we can get through the trials and crises that beset us. May God give us the hearts to not only believe this but live it by seeing, like Mother Teresa, the gift that each and every person is to us and to our world. It is not easy, but we need to work at it.

See you online or outside the church!

Tom



The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger

Worship Services and Scripture Passages for September

September 6, 2020 – Worship 9:30 a.m.

- Pentecost 14A; Ordinary 23A
- Labor Day Sunday
- Online Worship hosted by Meyersville
Rev. Aspinall preaching
- Outdoor Worship (weather permitting) in Stirling
Rev. Peters preaching
Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149;
Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

September 13, 2020 – Worship 10:00 a.m.

- Pentecost 15A; Ordinary 24A
Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114;
Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35
One of You Is The Messiah



September 20, 2020 – Worship 10:00 a.m.

- Pentecost 16A; Ordinary 25A
Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45;
Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16
Enlarging Our Context

September 27, 2020 – Worship 10:00 a.m.

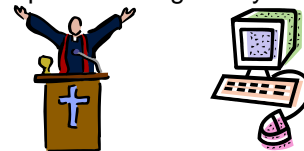
- Pentecost 17A; Ordinary 26A
Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16;
Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32
Welcoming Transformation

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.



Worship Schedule for September

- Rev. Peters

Our final **Shared Summer Service with Meyersville Presbyterian Church** will be held on **September 6th at 9:30 a.m.** outdoors in Stirling, weather permitting, and will be led by Rev. Peters. The on-line worship service will be led by Rev. Aspinall, and you will receive an email with the link to that service.

Worship services on September 13th–27th will be hosted online and outdoors by **FPC at 10:00 a.m.** At its August meeting, Session decided that we will not be worshipping in the sanctuary through the month of September. Remember, if you come to the outdoor service you need to do the following:

- ❖ Wear a mask
- ❖ Sanitize your hands before you sign the tracking log
- ❖ Sign the tracking log
- ❖ Copy a bulletin and bring it with you; or, take one that is provided, but there won't be many
- ❖ If you take a folding chair, please wipe it with a provided sanitizer wipe when you put it back
- ❖ Drop your offering in the offering plate on the sanitizing table
- ❖ Sit six feet apart from other family groups
- ❖ Rev. Peters will put the word out on Saturday afternoon if the outdoor service is canceled. The outdoor and indoor services will be the same.



Message from Rev. Peters

If you know of anyone who is in need of food or something else, please contact Rev. Peters, and he will arrange to get them what they need. Also, we have people in the church who have been helping others by going to the grocery store or pharmacy.



Thank you to the Deacons who continue contacting people just to see how they're doing during this time. People have told me how much they appreciate it. It is vitally important for us to remain connected during this time of isolation.

**Stewardship****- Rev. Peters**

If you are able, we hope you will continue to send in your pledge. You can use the **Online Giving** link, which is on the home page of our church's website. Or, mail your check to the church or directly to Elsie Turqman, our Financial Secretary. Her address is in the church directory.

How to View Our Online Worship Service**- Janet Parziale**

The church website, www.fpcstirling.org, has links on the home page that will take you to the recorded worship services. On the home page, you can click the "Recorded Services" link at the top of the page or the "Online Services/Bulletin" link on the left-hand side. Both of these links will take you to the page for our recorded services. The links to all online services, listed by date, have the video recording and also offer you a link to the weekly bulletin you can use to follow the service. The videos will be available for you to view once they are uploaded, usually sometime on the Saturday before each Sunday Service. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Janet Parziale at janetparziale@comcast.net or call 908-647-2212, and she will do her best to help you.

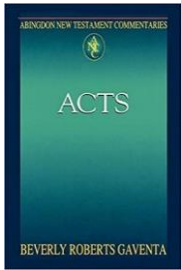
**Join the Online Zoom Coffee Hour****- Janet Parziale**

Many folks have been enjoying our online Zoom coffee hours. It has brought together friends and families of the church here in Long Hill and surrounding towns and from as far away as Washington State, Colorado, Iowa, and New York City. For many, these visits online with one another have been fun, therapeutic, and a great way to catch up with one another.

If you have not attended, please try it during an upcoming Sunday morning. You do not need any special software to join in the fun; just click the link on the email provided by Rev. Peters to participate. You can join with video or just with audio. You can do this using your phone, kindle, tablet, or computer. If you need the link resent, please feel free to contact Janet Parziale (at janetparziale@comcast.net or 908-647-2212) or Rev. Peters. They will be happy to forward you the email with the link. We hope to see you there this coming Sunday!

Thank You!**- Jan Somers**

I want to thank Janet Parziale personally for all her hard work and the hours she has dedicated to getting our on-line worship services and Zoom coffee hours up and running. She is certainly much more computer-literate than many of us (like me) and has been using her skills to our benefit. Thank you, Janet!

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

The Thursday morning Bible Study continues to meet on Zoom from 10:30 am – Noon. We are continuing our look at the Book of Acts, using Beverly Gaventa's book, *Acts*. It's never too late to join us; just let Rev. Peters know so he can send you the Zoom Link.

You may access the Bible Study through the following: paste the address for "Join Zoom Meeting" into your web browser, and then paste the Password if or when asked. Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/955212010?pwd=czB0UUpBaWFuSmJJSnVCYlZqQXBzUT09>

Meeting ID: 955 212 010 Password: 202121

Deacons' Corner**- Janet Parziale****Mission of the Month - September**

The Mission of the Month for **September is Family Promise of Morris County**, a program our church has been supporting for almost 30 years. Since it began, Family Promise has served **One Million** family members through shelter, meals, case management, and homelessness prevention. **Since we are not currently meeting at the church, donations may be sent to the church office (158 Central Ave, Stirling, NJ 07980) or directly to Elsie Turqman.** Remember to include your name and/or your envelope number if you would like your donation to be recorded and note "**Mission of the Month**" on your envelope or check. Thank you for helping to make a difference for children and families.

**May-June Mission of the Month Update**

The Deacons want to thank the congregation very much for their generous contributions towards our May-June Mission of the Month, our local Food Pantry at St. Vincent's Catholic Church. With the current pandemic still hitting many individuals hard, getting food on the table has become extremely difficult for many families. Food Pantries across the nation have been stretched beyond their limits to support their local communities. We recently **sent a check for \$330 to help fund the food pantry at St. Vincent's.** The Deacons would also like to thank all those individuals who also were able to donate actual food products. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Need Help? Want to Chat?

During this time of staying at home, it is easy to begin missing that human connection. If you are in need of help getting groceries or just want to talk to someone, please feel free to call a Deacon or Rev. Peters. We are ready to help in any way we can. If you know of someone who needs assistance, please reach out to one of us, even if it's just for an ear to listen.

**Know Someone Who Needs a Card?**

Each week during the Prayers of the People, Rev. Peters lifts up names of members, friends, and family who need our prayers for joys and concerns. Many have attested to the power of prayer in helping to give strength to all those involved. A Deacon sends cards to let them know they're being thought of and they're in the prayers of the congregation to get well, share joyful wishes, or express sympathy.

If you know of a member who is in need of our thoughts or prayers, please let Janet Parziale know so that a card can be sent. Janet can be reached at janetparziale@comcast.net or 908-647-2212.

Mission Programs

Bridges Outreach Lunch Program

- Janet Parziale



The Bridges organization is still in need of as many lunches as we can provide, but we all want to ensure that they are prepared and delivered in a safe manner. Going forward, Bridges is not using their sign-up process to schedule lunch drop-offs. They are asking that we bring them any day (Mon-Thurs) convenient to us. Only one person will be handling the preparations during this time. We will select a day when the sandwiches will be made and the brown bags prepared with non-perishable goodies, and one person will take them to Summit.

2020 CROP Walk

- Rev. Peters

The Walk is virtual, but the need could not be more real!

It looks like Church World Service is going with virtual CROP walks this year because of the Covid-19 pandemic. A virtual walk is where those who might walk use their social media connections and ask people to donate, or they safely go out and walk on their own or in family units and donate the money raised. If you are interested in participating, please let Rev. Peters know. It would be done some time in October.



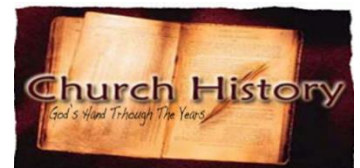
Church Website & Facebook Page

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, Stirling Stuff, 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.** Items can be mailed to the Church (labeled "Archives"), or you can hold onto them until we are back in our building. Thank you.



Helping Out

- Jan Somers



Elsie Turqman and Jan Somers continue sewing fabric face masks in different sizes. If you or someone you know needs one, please contact Elsie or Jan.

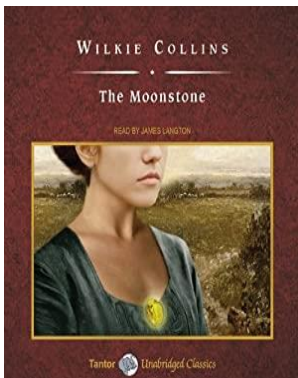
Free Printer Ink/Toner Available**- Jan Somers**

I've been asked to list some items that are **free** to anyone who can use them. Please contact me if you or someone you know can use any of these: Printer Ink/Toner Cartridges:

HP #92 (Black)	Cannon #210 (Black)
HP #93 (Color)	Cannon #211 (Color)
HP #932 (Black)	HP #564 (Yellow)
HP #933 (Color)	

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

The book club will be meeting via **Zoom on Tuesday, September 29th, 7:30 p.m.**, to discuss "The Moonstone," a novel by Wilkie Collins. Everyone is welcome to join; please let Rev. Aspinall or Jan Somers know so that you receive the Zoom link for the discussion. Rev. Aspinall has copies of the book available.



Originally published in 1868 in serialized form in Charles Dickens' magazine, The Moonstone is considered the first modern detective novel. Many of the elements we consider part of the detective genre were first included in The Moonstone. An English country house robbery, an "inside job," a celebrated investigator, the bungling local police, lots of false suspects, and reconstruction of the crime were all first elements of this story.

"The Moonstone is a page-turner", writes Carolyn Heilbrun. "It catches one up and unfolds its amazing story through the recounting of its several narrators, all of them enticing and singular." Wilkie Collins's spellbinding tale of romance, theft, and murder inspired a hugely popular genre—the detective mystery. Hinging on the theft of an enormous diamond originally stolen from an Indian shrine, this riveting novel features the innovative Sergeant Cuff, the hilarious house steward Gabriel Betteridge, a lovesick housemaid, and a mysterious band of Indian jugglers.

Member-abilia**Welcome Little One**

Congratulations to Kristin and Chris Linden on the birth of their daughter, Olivia Charlotte. Olivia was born on August 12th and weighed 6 lbs., 3 oz. She joins big sister, Alice, who turned 4 in July. Our best wishes to the happy family!



New Address

Lore & Rich Pateman have a new address: 1273 Red Mountain Dr.
Longmont, CO 80504



In Memory

Long-time member of our congregation, Ruth Young, passed away on August 7th. Ruth and her husband, Cliff, joined the church in 1992 and were very involved in all aspects of Church life. Ruth served as Deacon and Elder. Please continue to keep Ruth's family and friends in your thoughts and prayers. Ruth's family has designated the Church to receive gifts in her memory. Condolences may be sent to:

Kelli Pedrazzi, 31 Overlook Ave., East Hanover, NJ 07936

Dale Young, 55 Schoolhouse Rd., Randolph, NJ 07869



Ruth was always ready to help at the Spring Cleanup days!



Ruth Young with the Sunday Coffee Hour Crew!
From left: Ginny, Lynn, Art, Veronica, Yvonne, Jean, and Ruth.

Shrine of St. Joseph 911 Memorial Service is Cancelled



Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, The Shrine of St. Joseph on Long Hill Road in Stirling has cancelled their annual September 11 Memorial Service for this year. However, the public is invited to pay their respects individually on this nineteenth anniversary of the terror attacks.

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.

Ongoing Mission Programs: Please save these until we are back in the sanctuary:

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.

Items collected for various causes:

- ✓ Full-sized and "courtesy"-sized bars of soap, shampoo, conditioner, shower caps
- ✓ 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 from 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 October issue of Stirling Stuff to:

jsomers17@hotmail.com

by **September 24th**. Thank you!

Why not invite a friend to online church?

Stirling Stuff is the newsletter of

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling

158 Central Avenue
Stirling, NJ 07980

Editor: Jan Somers

The Rev. Dr. Thomas T. Peters, Pastor
pastor@fpcstirling.org
Paulette Irlander, Office Manager
Secretary@fpcstirling.org
Church Office: 908-647-1033
Website: www.fpcstirling.org

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.

