



# *Stirling Stuff*

**Volume 64, No. 7**

**Summer2020**

## **Pastor's Letter**

When we began 2020, I don't think any of us imagined we would be where we find ourselves right now. I've heard a lot of people say they would like to cancel 2020 and move on into 2021. The pandemic, the economy and jobs situation, and the protests have created a perfect storm in our country that, at times, seems to threaten to undo us. And it is looking like we will be in this for the foreseeable future. People want to be back to normal – they want to get back to the way things used to be last fall when all of this seemed so far away. It is scary because we are hearing it may take years to get back to the way things were last fall. There is going to be a new normal for some time that includes wearing masks and self-distancing – being smart in our interactions with other people. At an online Presbytery gathering about re-opening our churches, this statement was made several times, "It may be permissible, but it may not be wise." Just because something is permissible doesn't mean it is always the wise thing to do. In the beginning, New York and New Jersey were the epicenter of the pandemic. Now they have the lowest rates of infection, and states in the south and west are rising fast in infection rates. Florida is close to being declared the new epicenter of the pandemic.



I'm saying all of this because, while we are doing better than a lot of places in the U.S., we have to remain vigilant in our routines to prevent a new rapid spread. You will note in this newsletter that I share, weather permitting, we will have services outdoors on the front lawn of the church. While the state has said we can have 25% of the seating capacity of the sanctuary used for inside worship, we do not believe that it is wise to do so at this time. The earliest we plan to be back in the sanctuary is early September, but that is not a given at this time. **Please note elsewhere in this newsletter what some of the rules for worship outdoors are.** Not only are they to prevent anyone from getting sick, but they are also to get us into good habits before we do reenter the sanctuary. While we are outdoors and even when we get back into the sanctuary, we will still offer the online services for those who may not feel safe joining us in person. We are very close to getting our reentry protocols approved by Presbytery. When we have that approval, we will get them out to you so you can see what will have to be done to attend worship no matter where it is, as well as what has to be done to enter the building during the week.



Many times, Jesus talked about the need to consider our neighbors as much as we consider ourselves. The protocols have been developed to enable us to do that. We want everyone to be safe! When you receive the protocols, either online or in the mail, please read them carefully. We have been very fortunate that no one in our Church Family, that we know of, has had the virus. We want to keep it that way. God bless each of you as we continue this journey.

See you in church . . . outdoors and online!

*Tom*

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

## Worship Services and Scripture Passages for July & August

### July 5, 2020

- Pentecost 5A
- Online Worship (recorded)
- Outdoor Worship (weather permitting) – **9:30 a.m.**  
 Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45:10-17  
 Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30  
*Preaching:*  
*Online: Rev. Jeanne Radak*  
*Outdoor: Rev. Peters*

### July 12, 2020

- Pentecost 6A
- Online Worship (recorded)
- Outdoor Worship (weather permitting) - **9:30 a.m.**  
 Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112  
 Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23  
*Preaching:*  
*Online: Rev. Aspinall*  
*Outdoor: Rev. Peters*

### July 19, 2020

- Pentecost 7A
- **Online Worship Only (recorded)**  
 Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139:1-12, 23-34  
 Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 35-43  
*Rev. Aspinall preaching*

### July 26, 2020

- Pentecost 8A
- **Online Worship Only (recorded)**  
 Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11, 45b  
 Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52  
*Rev. Aspinall preaching*

### August 2, 2020

- Pentecost 9A
- Online Worship (recorded)
- Outdoor Worship (weather permitting) - **9:30 a.m.**  
 Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7  
 Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21  
*Rev. Peters preaching*

### August 9, 2020

- Pentecost 10A
- Online Worship (recorded)
- Outdoor Worship (weather permitting) - **9:30 a.m.**  
 Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28;  
 Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b  
 Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33  
*Rev. Peters preaching*

### August 16, 2020

- Pentecost 11A
- Online Worship (recorded)
- Outdoor Worship (weather permitting) - **9:30 a.m.**  
 Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133  
 Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:10-28  
*Rev. Peters preaching*

### August 23, 2020

- Pentecost 12A
- Online Worship (recorded)
- Outdoor Worship (weather permitting) - **9:30 a.m.**  
 Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124  
 Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20  
*Rev. Peters preaching*

### August 30, 2020

- Pentecost 13A
- Online Worship (recorded)
- Outdoor Worship (weather permitting) - **9:30 a.m.**  
 Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c  
 Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-29  
*Rev. Peters 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](http://www.fpcstirling.org), click on: "Sermon Archive," then select the sermon and/or scripture reading date you would like.



### **Rev. Peters on Vacation**

Rev. Peters will be on vacation from July 17-31. If you need pastoral assistance during this time, you may call Rev. Barbara Aspinall: 908-803-6800 (cell) or 908-647-0390 (Meyersville Church office).

## **Summer Worship Schedule**

Outside summer service will be held on the church lawn from July 5<sup>th</sup> through September 6<sup>th</sup>, and will start at 9:30 a.m. **Please note:** there will be no outside service on July 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, when Rev. Peters is on vacation. The online services will be recorded and can be watched at any time.



### **Guidelines for outdoor services:**

- ✓ A determination will be made regarding the weather by 8 p.m. the night before, and people will be notified if the outdoor service is cancelled.
- ✓ There will be a "Sanitizing Station" with wipes available.
- ✓ Upon arrival, everyone must sanitize their hands and enter their name in the tracking log book.
- ✓ Masks must be worn and 6-feet distancing must be maintained. There will be circles on the lawn for people to place their chairs to help with distancing.
- ✓ You are encouraged to bring your own chair. If you cannot, chairs will be available. If you use a church chair, you must sanitize it with wipes before leaving.
- ✓ Restrooms may be used, but only one person at a time may use each restroom (unless a child needs a parent to help).
- ✓ There will be no singing of hymns.
- ✓ There will be a sound system to help with hearing the service.
- ✓ Rev. Peters will not wear a mask while preaching; he will maintain at least a 10-foot distance from others.
- ✓ The offering will be collected in an offering plate by the Sanitizing Station.
- ✓ There will be no coffee hour.
- ✓ If you stay after the service, you must maintain the 6-foot social-distancing rule.

## **Message from Rev. Peters**

If you know of anyone who needs help with food or something else, please contact Rev. Peters, and he will arrange to get them what they need. 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**



Summer has traditionally been an especially tough time financially for the church, and we expect it will be the same this year. If you are able to, we hope you will continue to send in your pledge. You can use the **PayPal 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. Thank you!

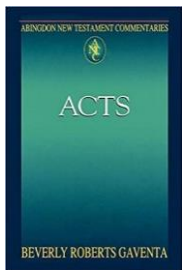
**How to View Our Online Worship Service****- Janet Parziale**

For summer, there will be a recorded worship service available each week on the church website, [www.fpcstirling.org](http://www.fpcstirling.org). On the home page, click the "[Live Streaming & Videos](#)" link, and then choose which service you want to watch. The videos will be available for you to view at any time. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Janet Parziale at [janetparziale@comcast.net](mailto: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 members and friends of the church have been enjoying our online Zoom **coffee hours each Sunday at 11:00 a.m.** It has brought together friends and family of the church here in Long Hill Township and surrounding towns and from as far away as Massachusetts with Chris Scott; Chincoteague Island, Virginia with Joyce Koenig; Washington State with Dani Clark; Iowa with David, Brooke, and Eleanor Parziale; and, New York City with Ali Peters. For many, these online visits with one another have been fun, therapeutic, and a great way to catch up.

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

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

Bible Study continues on **Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. online**. **There will be no Bible study on July 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, when Rev. Peters is on vacation.** We are using Dr. Beverly Gaventa's book, *Acts*; I read portions that I think are important, and then we discuss them. You may access the Bible Study through the following: paste the address of the "Join Zoom Meeting" address in your web browser, and then paste the Password if or when asked. Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/955212010?pwd=cZB0UUpBaWFWuSmdJSnVCYlZqQXBzUT09>

Meeting ID: 955 212 010 Password: 202121

**Deacons' Corner****- Janet Parziale****Mission of the Month - Summer - Bridges Outreach Lunch Program**

The Mission of the Month for **July and August is the Bridges Outreach Lunch Program**. We have been providing lunches for this program for many years, and their need is greater than ever right now. Donations allow us to purchase items needed to prepare these lunches. **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. This offering will be collected throughout the summer months. Thank you in advance for supporting this special mission program.



### **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.

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### **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.



During this time when we are not meeting together, 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](mailto:janetparziale@comcast.net) or 908-647-2212.

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## **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. For July and August, 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.



### **Facilities & Property**

**- Tom Parziale**

Sue Wermuth spent a few hours one morning weeding a large section just to the left of the entrance to the sanctuary. This area was neglected this spring and very overgrown. Sue said she plans to come back again to continue this effort. Thank you, Sue!

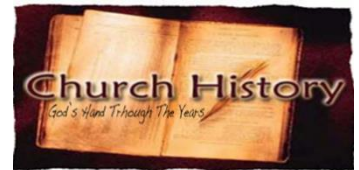
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## **Church Website & Facebook Page**

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, 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 are still sewing fabric face masks. If you or someone you know needs one, please contact Elsie or Jan.

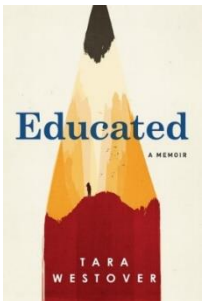
**Free Printer Ink/Toner Available****- Jan Somers**

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

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

The book club will be meeting via **Zoom on Tuesday, July 14th, 7:30 p.m.**, to discuss "Educated," a memoir by Tara Westover. Everyone is welcome to join; please let Rev. Aspinall or Jan Somers know so that you receive the Zoom link for the discussion.



*Tara Westover was 17 the first time she set foot in a classroom. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, she prepared for the end of the world by stockpiling home-canned peaches and sleeping with her "head-for-the-hills bag". In the summer she stewed herbs for her mother, a midwife and healer and, in the winter, she salvaged in her father's junkyard. Her father forbade hospitals. Gashes and concussions, even burns from explosions, were all treated at home with herbalism. The family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent.*

*Then, lacking any formal education, Tara began to educate herself. She taught herself enough mathematics and grammar to be admitted to Brigham Young University. Her quest for knowledge took her to Harvard and Cambridge. Only then would she wonder if she'd traveled too far, if there was still a way home.*

*Educated* is an account of the struggle for self-invention. It is a tale of fierce family loyalty and of the grief that comes with severing the closest of ties. It is a universal coming-of-age story that gets to the heart of what an education is and what it offers: the perspective to see one's life through new eyes and the will to change it.

## **Welcome Little One**

Congratulations to Dana and Jui DaSilva on the birth of their first child on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, a son named London Reid. Dana is the daughter of Jody (Riggins) and Bob Senna and granddaughter of Connie and Ed Riggins. Jody and Bob traveled to Virginia to be with them but were not allowed into the hospital—very tough on grandparents to have to wait to see their first grandchild!



## **Farewell Good Friends**



Lore and Rich Pateman have moved to Longmont, Colorado. Their son and his wife live in Boulder and their daughter and her husband live in Hawaii. So, they'll definitely be closer to the family. They have been a wonderful part of our church family over the years. Lore served on Session, chaired the Christian Education Committee and the Fish and Chips Committee. She played in the handbell choir and took care of the bulletin board in the hallway by the entrance to Pollard Hall. She and Rich pruned bushes, power washed the building, weeded gardens, and did many other small tasks. They will be missed.



Janet Parziale set up a "virtual" card online for Lore and Rich, and members and friends were invited to click on it and add their personal messages.

Since we could not have a special coffee hour, we had a "Goodbye Drive-by" in the church parking lot on June 20<sup>th</sup>. It ended up being a "park and visit time" and a chance to say farewell from a social distance.

We wish Lore and Rich the very best as they begin their new adventure.



**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 may be placed on the pew in Pollard Hall:**

- ✓ 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 September issue of Stirling Stuff to:

[jsomers17@hotmail.com](mailto:jsomers17@hotmail.com)

by August 20<sup>th</sup>. 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 online church?

