



Stirling Stuff

Volume 65, No. 10

November 2021

Dear Church Family,

November is stewardship season. I know you know this, but stewardship is not only about the letter you receive each year asking for money to support the church's budget in the coming year – though it is partly that. It is also not only about the writing of a check or sliding cash into an envelope every month or week, though it is that also. More importantly, stewardship is actually about our understanding of ourselves as people who live not only for ourselves and our own goals and intentions for our lives. It has more to do with our view of ourselves as people of God, as people whose lives are in the hands of a generous God who loves us. This understanding of ourselves as beloved children of God touches everything about us – what we believe, our commitments, our friendships, our family lives, what kind of people we are at work, how we spend our time; what sort of future we envision for our children, our church, and our world; and, of course, how we spend our money. What we give to the church of our energy, our time, and our money is a reflection of this understanding of ourselves.



First Presbyterian serves the work of Christ's ministry. The people of First Presbyterian do good and meaningful ministry among themselves and with others. We are all part of this ministry by participating in the worship services, by being part of the life of the church, by serving on boards and accepting other responsibilities, by caring for our members and friends, by supporting mission outreach, by helping with upkeep on our building so that it too can serve these ministries, and by contributing our time and talents and treasure to make all these things possible. We are all part of it and your financial commitment to the church enables Christ's work to go on in this community.

A little later this month, you will be receiving a letter from the Session asking you to give to the church in a way that reflects your understanding of yourself as the beloved child of a generous God. We will include a prayer of dedication of our pledges in the worship service on Stewardship Sunday, November 21st.

Yours in Christ,

Barbara



The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling
Feeding Those Who Hunger

November Lectionary Readings

Nov. 7: 24th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

Nov. 14: 25th Sunday after Pentecost

Daniel 12:1-3; Psalm 16; Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25; Mark 13:1-8

Nov. 21: Christ the King Sunday

2 Samuel 23:1-7 and Psalm 132:1-12 (13-18) or Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 and Psalm 93; Revelation 1-4b-8; John 18:33-37

Nov. 28: First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36



Special Congregational Meeting, Nov, 7th

The Session has called for a special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 7th, immediately following morning worship. The purpose of the meeting is to elect one additional member-at-large to the Congregational Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee (Joyce Koenig from Session; Carolyn Malfatone from Deacons; and members-at-large, Paul Wermuth, Ed Gerech, and the newly elected person) will have its first meeting after the congregational meeting.

Travnicek Memorial Ringers

Our handbell choir has begun practicing in Stirling following morning worship. The immediate plan is to play during the Heritage Sunday service on November 28th.

You don't have to be able to read music. If you can count, you can easily follow the notes. If there is anyone else in the church (or a friend of the church, or a friend of yours!) who may be interested, please contact Rev. Aspinall.



Weekly Contributions

Although we haven't been worshipping in our sanctuary for a while, there are still financial commitments that must be met. Whether it's maintaining the buildings and grounds, paying our staff, or keeping up with our mission support, our expenses are ongoing. Once we return to worshipping in the sanctuary, please try to catch up on your pledges. If you will not be in church, please send your weekly offering/pledge (in your offering envelope) to the church office or directly to Elsie Turgman so that we can meet our obligations. Thank you.



Deacons' Corner**- Janet Parziale****Returning to Indoor Worship**

Hooray! With Covid-19 cases waning and more individuals getting vaccines, we are finally returning to indoor worship services. We will continue sharing worship services with Meyersville Presbyterian Church with indoor services at one church and recorded services at the other church. **Beginning with the first Sunday in November (All Saint's Sunday), we will worship indoors at the First Presbyterian Church of Stirling at 10:00 a.m. On-line services will be recorded at Meyersville Presbyterian Church on Thursdays.** As per Session's recommendations, we will all wear masks over both our nose and mouth, continue with social distancing, and sing quietly behind our masks. We will also continue to sign-in, enabling contact tracing if necessary. The hymnals and Bibles have all been cleaned and returned to the pews ready for use!



This is a major step forward for our church and we look forward to seeing everyone again! If you are hesitant about returning indoors, the on-line services will continue to be available.

Mission of the Month - November & December

In November and December, our **Mission of the Month will be designated for the Market Street Mission in Morristown.** Each Thanksgiving for many years, our church has stepped up and members have donated their free turkeys to Market Street Mission to help provide a delicious Thanksgiving dinner to many homeless individuals. Throughout the Covid-19 Pandemic, they have continued to provide 200 meals each day to those in immediate need.

They also provide recovery programs and vocational training to those rebuilding their lives, community counseling services, and "regularly scheduled meetings and services that give people a solid foundation for stable lives." In 2020, the Market Street Mission provided 86,207 meals to the homeless and poor in Morris County, hosted 21,316 shelter stays, and had 36 graduates from their Life Change recovery program.

This year, we will be supporting the Market Street Mission in two ways:

- ✓ If you qualify for a free turkey from the supermarket and do not plan to use it, please considering bringing it to the church on the Saturday morning before Thanksgiving. **Tom Parziale will be at the church from 10-11 a.m. on Saturday, November 20th, to collect the turkeys (please keep turkeys frozen).** He will then deliver them to Morristown.
- ✓ Monetary gifts collected through Mission of the Month will help them care for an individual's immediate needs today and their long-term needs for a stable and independent tomorrow



If you are not able to attend church, please mail your donation to the church office or directly to Elsie Turqman. Remember to mark it as "Nov/Dec Mission of the Month" and include your name and/or envelope number if you would like your donation to be recorded. Thank you in advance for supporting this program.

Flowers for Worship

For the month of November, Sunday morning worship services will be held indoors at Stirling.

If you would like to order flowers to be placed on the chancel for any of these services, please sign-up in Pollard Hall or call the church office at 908-647-1033 and leave a message with Paulette, our church secretary. You may also email your information to Paulette at secretary@fpcstirling.org. Please include the specifics (your name, the Sunday service you would like flowers for, and who they are given in memory/honor of). The cost is still \$30; your check (made payable to: *Flowers on the Ridge*) can be sent to the church office. Please place your order by the previous Sunday to allow enough lead time to have them for the service you choose. Israel Sierra has volunteered to pick them up on the Saturday before your service. You also have the option of providing flowers from your garden, etc. If you have any questions, please contact Paulette at the church office or Janet Parziale.



ShopRite Gift Cards

Do you shop at ShopRite? Well, then, you cannot afford to pass up this deal to help support the church in another small way. Over the past several years, the church has been purchasing ShopRite gift cards (known as our *Voucher Program*) to sell on Sunday mornings. For every \$100 sold, the church earns \$5; that is, we get 5% of all sales. Over the course of a year, at times that has translated to more than a \$1,000 earned.



The gift cards come in \$20, \$50, and \$100 denominations. They never expire; you can continue to use them until the balance is used up. To purchase these gift cards for yourself or as a gift, please see Yvonne Fletcher on Sunday mornings or call her at home during the week. She will be more than happy to help you out with your purchase. Thank you in advance for helping in this special way.



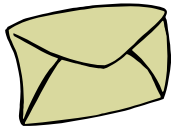
Know Someone Who Needs a Card?

We know what the power of prayer can do in helping to give strength to all those involved. If you know of someone who is in need of our 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.

Deacons Fundraiser: First Presbyterian Church Notecards

The Deacons are selling packets of **ten cards and envelopes for \$5.00**. The note cards have a pencil sketch of our church on the front; they are blank inside, thus making them useful for any type of communication. If you are interested, please let any Deacon know or leave a message at the church office, and we will get a pack or two to you. They will also be available for purchase following worship services in Stirling. Proceeds will go into the Deacons' Fund. Thank you for your support of this project.



Deacons' Fund

The Deacons' Fund helps the Deacons do their Mission work and is funded by donations given so generously by the congregation. You may send your donation to the church or directly to Elsie Turqman. Please note "Deacons' Fund" in the memo section of your check and include your envelope number. Thank you very much!

Worship Committee**- Janet Parziale****Return to Sanctuary: Communion and Non-Perishable Food Collection**

On **November 7th**, we will be **returning to indoor worship** at our church at last! We will all wear masks over both nose and mouth, we will be social distancing, and we will sing behind our masks. We will continue to sign-in to enable contact tracing if necessary.

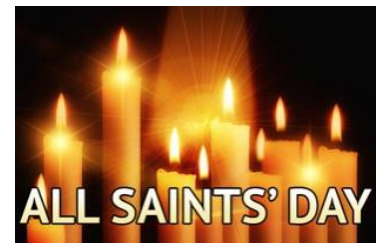


It's been a long time since we held our non-perishable food collection on Communion Sundays. However, the need for food has grown tremendously during the Covid pandemic. Beginning on **November 7th**, we will again collect donations of non-perishable food each Sunday that we worship in Stirling. The food will be delivered to the township food pantry at St. Vincent Church. Please help us fulfill our church's Mission Statement, *Feeding Those Who Hunger*.

Looking forward to seeing everyone back in the sanctuary again!

All Saints' Sunday, November 7th

On November 7th, we will celebrate **All Saints' Sunday**, a day when Christians give thanks for all the good people God has placed in their lives. **Reminder:** If you would like to remember someone special in your life who has passed away in the past year, please **call the church office (908-647-1033) by Monday, November 1st** and leave a message with the information (person's name and relationship to you). As in the past, a candle will be lit as each name is read aloud during the service. Please join us for this meaningful service.

**Heritage Sunday**

On **November 28th**, the church will celebrate **Heritage Sunday**. As in past years, Dave Palladino will be our guest bagpiper and will play the tune Richard Streeton composed for our church, "Stirling on the Hill," as well as other tunes.

Following worship, there will be a special coffee hour with lots of Scottish goodies to enjoy. The Worship Committee invites anyone who enjoys baking to make their favorite Scottish treats to share. (And bring along the recipe, as you're sure to be asked for it.) Some of the planned goodies include scones and shortbread. Of course, a fine pot of tea will also be served! We hope you will plan to celebrate our church's Scottish heritage. Also, **remember to wear a wee bit of plaid.**





First Sunday in Advent

November 28th is also the First Sunday in Advent, when we begin our Journey to Christmas. Plan to join us each week as we light the Advent candles and get closer to the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Liturgists Needed: For In-Person and On-Line Services

We need Liturgists each week to do readings for both our in-person and online worship services. Recordings for on-line services are done at the church, Stirling or Meyersville, on Thursday afternoons (other arrangements can be made if necessary).



To sign up, please contact Jan Somers or sign up in Pollard Hall. If Jan contacts you to ask you to read, please let her know as soon as possible if/when you will be available. Rev. Aspinall will send you a copy of your readings and confirm the location and time for the on-line recording. Thank you.

Mission Programs

Community Food Bank of NJ

- Kai Ihringer

After a two-year absence, our church is excited to resume our mission to "Feed the Hungry." I have scheduled a trip to the Community Food Bank in Hillside for **Saturday, December 4th**. Volunteers are needed to help sort and package food for delivery to those in need.



Here is the relevant information:

Date: Sat., December 4th

Departure: Meet at 8 a.m. in the church parking lot. Leave by 8:15 a.m.

Food Bank Slot: 9 – 11 a.m.

Return: Back at church between 11:30 a.m. and 12 noon

Cell Phone (Kai): 908-361-2845

Here is information from the food bank website regarding Covid-19 volunteer requirements:

- ✓ All volunteers must be aged 12 or older.
- ✓ Fully vaccinated volunteers who can show proof of vaccination will not have to do onsite screening.
- ✓ Unvaccinated volunteers must go through onsite screening upon entering the facility.
- ✓ Face masks are required and will be provided if necessary.
- ✓ All work areas maintain social distancing guidelines.

If you plan to attend, please respond by Friday, Nov. 26th so that I can send the final roster to the food bank. Also, let me know if you are willing to drive and how many available seats you have. Thank you.

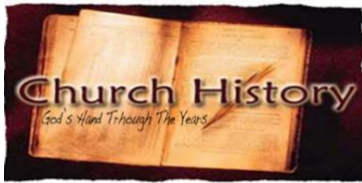
Bridges Outreach Lunch Program**- Janet Parziale**

The Bridges Outreach organization is in need of as many lunches as we can provide. Currently, one person is making sandwiches and one person is filling the brown bags. The sandwiches, drinks, and non-perishable goodies are delivered to Summit monthly.

We are always in need of small bottles of water or cartons of juice; snacks of cookies, nuts, Goldfish, pretzels; and small fruit cups, applesauce, pudding, etc. Cash donations are also appreciated to help with the purchase of bread and lunch meat. You can drop items off in Pollard Hall (call the office to confirm that someone is there) or send cash donations to Elsie Turgman. Thank you.

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 save 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 save them until you are in the building. Thank you.

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 Christian life."



Copies of this devotional booklet are available in the church narthex.

**Welcome Little One**

Former member, Elly Freeman, is celebrating the birth of her first great-grandchild, Baylee Marie, born on August 13th to granddaughter, Anna Jane, and her husband, Jordan. Proud new grandparents are Elly's son, Herb, and his wife, Kristine.

Congratulations and best wishes to the happy family!



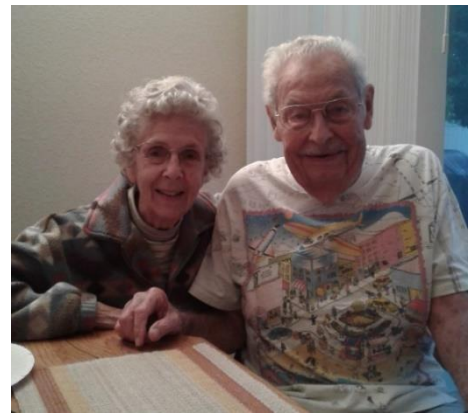


In Remembrance . . .

Our church family has suffered several losses in recent weeks. Please keep all of these families in your prayers:

Former long-time member Charlotte Clarke passed away on September 15th in Laguna Hills, California. Charlotte was a driving force in our church's "Women's Support Group" and the "Annual Women's Retreat Weekends" held at Johnsonburg Camp and Conference Center for many years. Please keep Charlotte's husband, Freeman, sons Eric and Jim, and other family and friends in your prayers. Condolences may be sent to Freeman at:

23291 Alameda Ave., Laguna Hills, CA 92653-6211



(Charlotte and Freeman, Feb. 2019)

Linda Hamma, one of our church sextons for many years and a church friend, passed away on October 27th. Please keep Linda's husband, Charlie, and other family and friends in your prayers. Plans for a service have not yet been finalized. Condolences may be sent to Charlie at: 269 Essex St., Stirling, NJ 07980



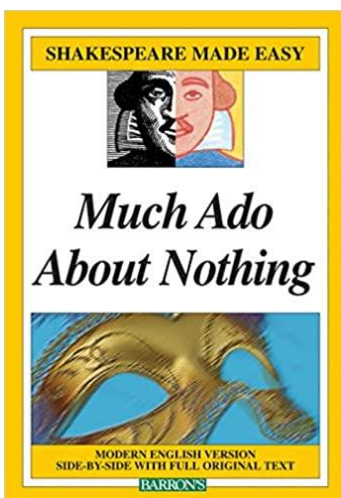
Former long-time member, Phyllis Albers, passed away on October 21st after a short illness. Phyllis was involved in many aspects of the church, including the choir and Women's Retreats. Please keep her husband, Richard, sons David and Chris, and other family and friends in your prayers. Condolences may be sent to Richard at:

Box 322, Bayse, VA 22810.

Meyersville Book Club

- Jan Somers

The Book Club's current selection is Shakespeare's *"Much Ado About Nothing."* It is the Barron's "Shakespeare Made Easy" edition and is edited by Christina Lacie. The group will meet via Zoom on Monday, November 8th, 7:30 p.m. to discuss the book. Everyone is welcome to join the group; please contact Rev. Aspinall so she can send you the Zoom link. Libraries are open and the book is available in several different formats.



"Much Ado About Nothing" is a comic play about two pairs of Italian lovers. It focuses on the character of Claudio, who has recently returned from war and pledged to marry Hero. However, the scheming Don John decides to interfere and successfully convinces Claudio that Hero has been unfaithful to him, leading to a series of misunderstandings and comic antics before the truth finally comes to light.

However, this storyline is often upstaged by the play's subplot, in which two of Shakespeare's wittiest and most beloved characters, Benedick and Beatrice, gradually fall in love with each other in spite of their avowed mutual scorn for love, marriage and – most importantly – each other!

"Much Ado About Nothing" is one of the best-known comedies by William Shakespeare, who is widely considered to be one of the most influential writers in the history of the English language.

Ongoing Mission Programs:

Family Promise of Morris County
 Bridges Outreach Lunch Program
 Local Food Pantry

Please e-mail submissions for the
 December issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
 by November 18th. Thank you!

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

Stirling Stuff is the newsletter of

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling

158 Central Avenue
 Stirling, NJ 07980

Editor: Jan Somers

Rev. Barbara Aspinall, Interim Pastor

baspinall223@aol.com

Paulette Irlander, Office Manager

Secretary@fpcstirling.org

Church Office: 908-647-1033

Website: www.fpcstirling.org

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.

