



Stirling Stuff

Volume 65, No. 8

September 2021

Outdoor Worship Continues

Following discussions by Session members from both churches, the decision has been made to continue the same worship protocol we have been using. The surge in new cases of the virus is the reason for the continuation.



Upcoming Worship Schedule

- **Sunday, Sept. 5th** (Labor Day Sunday), we will worship outdoors in Meyersville, **starting at 9:30 a.m.**
- Beginning on **Sunday, Sept. 12th**, and for the remainder of Sept., we will worship outdoors in Stirling **starting at 10:00 a.m.**
- October services will be held in Meyersville
- November services will be held in Stirling

Outdoor services are contingent on weather. Decisions will be made the Saturday before and the congregations will be notified by emails/phone calls if outdoor services are cancelled. There will always be an on-line service available.

Non-Perishable Food Collection



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 with so many people unemployed.

Beginning on Sunday, September 12th, there will be a basket on the table outside of the church on each Sunday that we worship in Stirling for the collection of your non-perishable food donations. 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. Thank you.

September Lectionary Readings

Sept. 5: 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 146; James 2:1-10 (11-13), 14-17; Mark 7:24-37

Sept 12: 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 116:1-9; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

Sept. 19: 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 54; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

Sept. 26: 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29; Psalm 19:7-14; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50



Weekly Contributions



Although we are not worshipping in our sanctuary, there are still financial commitments that need to be met. Whether it's maintaining the buildings and grounds, paying our staff, or keeping up with our mission support, our expenses are ongoing. Please send your weekly offering/pledge (in your offering envelope) to the church office or directly to Elsie Turqman so that we can meet our obligations. Thank you.

Message from Rev. Aspinall

I encourage all those who have not yet received their **COVID 19 vaccine** to do so. It has been approved by our rigorous FDA and proven to be safe and effective. It is important for all the citizens of our nation to take seriously our responsibility to not only safeguard our own health, but also the health of our fellow citizens. As more of our congregation is vaccinated, the closer we get to being able to hold worship services in our sanctuary. For more information about the vaccines, please go to www.nj.gov/health/vaxfacts



Join the Online Zoom Coffee Hour

- Janet Parziale



In September, our Zoom coffee hour returns to **11:00 a.m. every Sunday morning** (unless otherwise announced) jointly with our friends from Meyersville.

You do not need any special software to join in the fun; just click the link in the email provided each week to participate. You can join with video or just with audio, and you can use your phone, Kindle, tablet, or computer. If you need the link resent, please contact Janet Parziale at

janetparziale@comcast.net or 908-647-2212.

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

The Deacons have selected **Family Promise of Morris County** as the focus of our **Mission of the Month** offering for the months of September and October. Although Covid-19 has prevented us from physically hosting families at Trinity House, we have been supporting them financially while they are being housed in hotels during the pandemic. The funds are used to purchase food and other necessities. Our church is scheduled to host again on December 12th. Funds received through the Mission of the Month collection will be used for this purpose.

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 "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

Starting September 12th and for the remainder of the month, outdoor services will be held in Stirling. If you would like to order flowers for any of the outdoor services, please call the church office or Israel Sierra.



Also starting the second week of September, Rev. Aspinall will be recording services in Meyersville. If you would like to order flowers to be placed on the chancel for any of these services, please call the church office or Israel Sierra. Since recordings are done on Thursdays, the flowers need to be picked up by Israel on Wednesdays. Place your order at least one week prior to the Wednesday pick-up date to allow enough lead time to have them for the service you choose.

Please leave a message with 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. If you have any questions, please contact Janet Parziale.

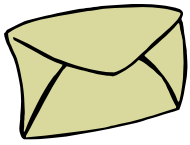
Deacon Fundraiser: First Presbyterian Church Notecards

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. The cards were printed by Creeko Creations in Wisconsin. 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 our outdoor worship services on Sunday mornings. The money collected will go into the Deacons' Fund. Thank you in advance for your support of this project.

**Know Someone Who Needs a Card?**

Each week during worship, we remember members, friends, and family who need our prayers for joys and concerns. We know what the power of prayer can do 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 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' Fund

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

Worship Committee**- Janet Parziale****Worship Schedule**

Online services will continue to be available weekly. We will also hold services outside on Sunday mornings—weather permitting. We will continue to social distance. Feel free to bring a lawn chair. Each church will also have a few folding chairs available for those who are not able to bring one. No sign-ups are necessary to attend.



You may call the church office (908-647-1033) on Fridays to find out where the outdoor service will be held for the following **Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m.** We look forward to seeing you there!

Notices of these dates will be posted on the church doors so if there is confusion, there will be time to dash to the other church and only be a few minutes late. Latecomers are always welcome!

Liturgists Needed

We need Liturgists each week to do readings for the online worship services. Recordings 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. 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 recording. Thank you!

Mission Programs**Bridges Outreach Lunch Program****- Janet Parziale**

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

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 church office to confirm someone is there) or send cash donations to Elsie Turqman.

**Mission Giving Thank You****- Toni Hopcraft**

Our Mission program is very grateful to **Lifetime** (fitness club), located locally in Berkeley Heights. *Lifetime* made a generous contribution of healthy cheese snacks and berry coconut water drinks, which helped provide 120 meals to the homeless through the Bridges Outreach Lunch Program. We really appreciate their support and sharing of resources to help serve the needy of the community. Thank you!

Property & Building Maintenance**- Tom Parziale**

Many thanks to everyone who assisted with the weeding at the church on Saturday, August 28th. Saturday's work crew included Janet Parziale, Elsie Turqman, Lynn Blakeslee, Paul Wermuth, and Tom Parziale. Several bags of weeds, including poke weed plants, were filled and removed. Thanks also to Joyce Koenig and Carolyn Malfatone who did some work earlier.

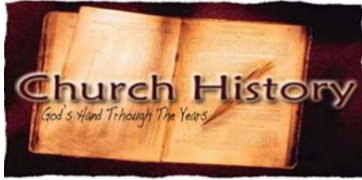


There's still more to be done, but this was a great start. Thank you again to all who helped out.

P.S.: There are lots of buds about to burst so they should all look beautiful very soon.

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.

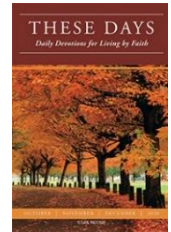
Church Archives**- Jan Somers**

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.

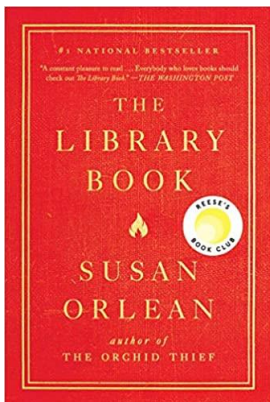
These Days

“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.”

Our Church has copies of this devotional booklet. If you would like a copy, please contact the church office, and you can pick it up or one can be mailed to you.

**Meyersville Book Club****- Jan Somers**

The Book Club’s current selection is a non-fiction book, **“The Library Book,”** by Susan Orlean. The group will meet via Zoom on Monday, October 4th, 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.



On the morning of April 28, 1986, a fire alarm sounded in the Los Angeles Public Library. The fire was disastrous: it reached two thousand degrees and burned for more than seven hours. By the time it was extinguished, it had consumed four hundred thousand books and damaged seven hundred thousand more. Investigators descended on the scene, but more than thirty years later, the mystery remains: Did someone purposefully set fire to the library—and if so, who?

Weaving her lifelong love of books and reading into an investigation of the fire, award-winning New Yorker reporter and New York Times bestselling author Susan Orlean delivers a “delightful...reflection on the past, present, and future of libraries in America” (New York magazine) that manages to tell the broader story of libraries and librarians in a way that has never been done before.

In the “exquisitely written, consistently entertaining” (The New York Times) The Library Book, Orlean chronicles the LAPL fire and its aftermath to showcase the larger, crucial role that libraries play in our lives; delves into the evolution of libraries; brings each department of the library to vivid life; studies arson and attempts to burn a copy of a book herself; and, reexamines the case of Harry Peak, the blond-haired actor long suspected of setting fire to the LAPL more than thirty years ago.

“A book lover’s dream...an ambitiously researched, elegantly written book that serves as a portal into a place of history, drama, culture, and stories” (Star Tribune, Minneapolis), Susan Orlean’s thrilling journey through the stacks reveals how these beloved institutions provide much more than just books—and why they remain an essential part of the heart, mind, and soul of our country.

20th Annual Stirling Community Street Fair

On Sunday, **September 5th**, the 20th Annual Stirling Street Fair, sponsored by the Long Hill Twp. Chamber of Commerce, will be held on **Main Avenue, Stirling, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**, rain or shine. The Fair will feature exhibitors selling assorted items, arts & crafts, live entertainment, kiddie rides & games, and festival foods & food trucks. Local merchants and civic organizations will be passing out goodies.



Please note that Main Street/Central Avenue will be closed to traffic. We are worshipping in Meyersville at 9:30 a.m. that morning; remember to use an alternate route.

Shrine of St. Joseph 9/11 Memorial Service

This year marks the **twenty-year anniversary of 9/11**. It is a time to remember those whose lives were lost, those who heroically served, and those who continue to bring peace to the world. **On Saturday, September 11th, the Shrine of St. Joseph, Long Hill Road, Stirling, will host an Ecumenical Candlelight Vigil at 7:00 p.m.**

The vigil will begin with a bagpipe procession of first responders and community and religious leaders from Long Hill Twp. and surrounding towns. The Rev. Dennis Berry, director of the Shrine of St. Joseph, will offer a welcome to those in attendance, **including recognition of the late Rev. Dr. Thomas Peters for his service to the Long Hill Twp. community. The former pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Stirling passed away this summer.**



The Shrine is home to the 35-foot **Tower of Remembrance**, which is dedicated to the memory of all those who lost their lives on 9/11. The architecture combines steel from the North Tower of the World Trade Center and bells from the Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity's Seminary in Monroe, Virginia. The name of each innocent victim who died at The World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and in the Shanksville, Pennsylvania countryside is inscribed on the memorial walls. This Tower, emerging from the rubble of violence, reminds us that in God there is hope, that as we remember, we heal.

RUMMAGE SALE

October 1 & 2
9:30am - 3:30pm

October 3
12:30 - 3:30pm

Far Hills Fairgrounds

DONATIONS ACCEPTED
September 4-21
10:00am - 1:00pm



Atlantic
Visiting Nurse

Visiting Nurse Association (VNA)

The VNA Rummage Sale is returning in October following several cancellations due to Covid-19. The Visiting Nurse Association has been renamed *Atlantic Visiting Nurse*, but they serve the same needs:

Senior Citizens
Hospice
Adult Day Care

Home Health
Private Care

Click this link, <https://www.atlantichealth.org/conditions-treatments/visiting-nurse/atlantic-visiting-nurse-fundraising/rummage-sale.html>, to read a list of items they accept.

Ongoing Mission Programs:

Family Promise
Bridges Outreach Lunch Program
Local Food Pantry

Please e-mail submissions for the
October issue of Stirling Stuff to:
jsomers17@hotmail.com
by September 23rd. 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

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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.

