



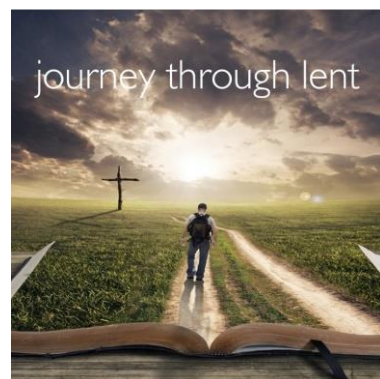
# *Stirling Stuff*

**Volume 66, No. 4**

**April 2022**

Dear Church Family,

As we continue on our Lenten journey with Jesus, we remember his triumphant Palm Sunday entrance into the city of Jerusalem. For the people standing by the side of the road, the son of David riding into town on a donkey was truly a moment of celebration and hope for the future. I suppose some folks celebrated because a parade is always a nice change from the everyday, but others rejoiced because they believed that Jesus was indeed sent from God to rescue Jerusalem from the oppression of the Roman occupation.



But the gospels show us that this perspective was inadequate. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all tell us that at the moment of Jesus' death on the cross, the curtain that divided the holiest of sacred areas of the temple from the rest of the temple was torn in two. This was accompanied by an earthquake and midday darkness. This shows us that Jesus had not come to rescue the Jews from the Romans; it was much bigger than that. Jesus brought change to the whole world for all of time. The veil that separated God from God's creation was torn, gone. In Jesus, the world is brought close to God. There is no longer anything that separates us from God.

A Biblical scholar was talking to a group of teenagers about this passage in the Bible and about the meaning of the tearing of the curtain in the temple. He told them that because of Jesus, now we can be close to God. A young man in the group was sitting with his arms folded, looking as disinterested and as bored as he could manage. But, at the teacher's description of the torn curtain, the boy perked up and said:

"That ain't what it means."

"What?" asked the teacher?

"I said, that ain't what it means."

"Well, the Greek word does mean 'rip' or 'tear,'" persisted the teacher.

"It means," said the boy, "that when Jesus died, now God can get to us anytime  
God wants! Now, nobody's safe!"

When Jesus came to us, we got more than a political revolutionary, more than a fine teacher who told good stories, more than a moral example. In Christ, God walks among us, and nobody is safe. Nobody is safe from the power of forgiveness, from the grace of God, from the love of God, from the challenge of making justice in the world.

Yours in Christ,  
*Barbara*

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

**Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Ukraine**

Dear Church Family,

I am so very proud of us! Between our two churches, Meyersville and First Presbyterian, you have opened your generous hearts to the people of Ukraine and contributed **\$6055** to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to be directed to care for Ukrainian refugees. This includes the matching grant of \$1,000. Thank you, thank you!

Yours in Christ,  
Barbara

**Easter Ham Donations**

**- Tom Parziale**

Once again, ShopRite is promoting free hams for the Easter holiday. As you sit down to enjoy Easter with your family, please remember those less fortunate. If you qualify for the free ham and will not be using it, please consider donating it. **Tom Parziale will be in the church parking lot on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, (the day before Palm Sunday), from 10:00-11:00 a.m., to collect the hams.** He will deliver them to the Market Street Mission in Morristown. Your support of this program is very much appreciated.



# Welcome to our Church Family

During morning worship on Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, Madelon Merkler joined our church by Letter of Transfer from her former church in Brownwood, Texas. Welcome to our congregation, Madelon!



**Shared In-Person Services****- Rev. Aspinal**

The Meyersville Presbyterian Church and the First Presbyterian Church of Stirling will continue joint in-person worship services.

We will wear face masks, social distance, and sign-in for purposes of contact tracing, if needed. **In April, services will be held in Meyersville, except for Maundy Thursday, which will be in Stirling.**

**\*There is a complete schedule of our Holy Week Worship Services on page 6. Please plan to join us.**

Our online services will also continue each week and are accessible through a link delivered by email and also on the church website, [www.fpcstirling.org](http://www.fpcstirling.org). The service can be viewed at any time. DVDs of the service are also available and may be requested through Janet Parziale.

**Stewardship****Weekly Contributions**

Whether you worship in person or on-line, please try to keep your pledges current. Financial commitments still need to be met. Expenses for maintaining the buildings and grounds, paying our staff, or keeping up with our mission support are ongoing. You can send your weekly offering/pledge (in your offering envelope) to the church office or directly to Elsie Turqman. Thank you.

**Handbell Choir**

Plan to join us for morning worship in **Meyersville on Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>**, to enjoy music by our joint-church Handbell Choir. They will be playing "Canon of Grace," arranged by Linda R. Lamb.

**Deacons' Corner****- Janet Parziale****Indoor Worship Services**

As we continue joint worship services in Meyersville and Stirling, if you need a ride to either church, please feel free to call upon a Deacon or fellow church member. We are happy to help. One reminder--at Meyersville, there is an elevator that can be used instead of walking up the front steps to the sanctuary. We hope you will join us.

**Mission of the Month - April**

The Mission of the Month for April will continue to be "**One Great Hour of Sharing.**" A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, food to the hungry, and empowerment to the poor and oppressed. Please use the special envelopes available in the church pews or send your gift directly to the church or Elsie Turqman. Remember to include your name and/or envelope number if you would like your donation to be recorded.

To learn more, go to: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/>. Thank you for supporting this program.

## Looking Ahead: Mission of the Month for May - Family Promise of Morris County



The Deacons have selected Family Promise of Morris County as the focus of our Mission of the Month offering for May. 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 motels. The funds are used to purchase food and other necessities.

Our church hosted during the week of February 6<sup>th</sup>, and we are scheduled to host again for the weeks of May 8<sup>th</sup> and October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Donations received through the Mission of the Month collection will enable us to continue assisting the families in the program.

## Easter Flowers

The Deacons thank everyone who ordered the beautiful Easter plants to decorate our sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Also, thanks to Carolyn Malfatone and Elsie Turqman for picking the plants up from *The Great Swamp Nursery* and setting them up in the sanctuary. Any plants not taken will be planted in the church's Memorial Garden.



## Share Your Plants to Beautify Our Sanctuary



Spring is here! Flowers and flowering plants are beginning to bloom! Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a bit of spring beautify our sanctuary and your garden this season? If you are thinking of adding some flowering plants like tulips, daffodils, azaleas, hydrangeas, or other flowering bushes or potted plants to your garden, consider bringing them to the church to be used during the recorded services in April or in-person services during May.

**Throughout April**, you can bring the plants on Monday or Tuesday and take them home on Thursday or Friday, following the recording. We will take good care and water them while they are at the church. **For the month of May**, you can bring them in on Saturday or Sunday morning when you come for worship and then take them home following the service (or leave them for another week). If you are interested in sharing your plants, please call the office so Paulette can get the information (your name and who you are sharing the flowers in honor or memory of) for the weekly bulletin. Thank you very much in advance for helping beautify our sanctuary with wonders of spring!



## ShopRite Gift Cards



For the past several years, the church has been selling ShopRite gift cards (known as our *Voucher Program*). 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 contact Yvonne Fletcher. 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 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](mailto:janetparziale@comcast.net) or 908-647-2212.

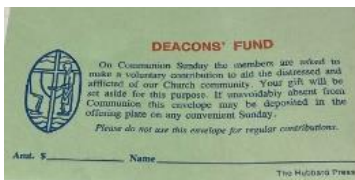


## Deacons Fundraiser: First Presbyterian Church Notecards

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, 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. Proceeds will go into the Deacons' Fund. Thank you for your support of this project.



## Deacons' Fund



The Deacons' Fund is supported by the offerings so generously given by you in the **little green envelopes found in the church pews**. In recent years, this fund has been used to purchase the name plaques on the memoriam boards in Pollard Hall, candles and oil for the sanctuary, stamps for cards sent to the congregation, provisions for the Bridges Lunch program, special items like the cable for the remote TV used in Pollard Hall, and to support some of the mission projects of the Deacons. Every dollar is greatly appreciated and put to good use.

You may send your donation directly to Elsie Turqman or use the little green envelopes in your pew on Sunday morning. Please note "Deacons' Fund" in the memo section of your check. Thank you very much!

**Worship Committee****- Janet Parziale****Sacrament of Holy Communion and Non-Perishable Food Collection, April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

We will celebrate the Lord's Supper in **Meyersville on April 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Please remember to bring a non-perishable food/non-food item or monetary donation for the "**Twelve Baskets Food Pantry**," housed at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Millington.



Food items: baby food, applesauce, shelf-stable milk, cold cereal, crackers, chips, coffee, dried herbs and spices, canola oil, olive oil

Non-food items: toiletries, diapers, baby wipes, paper towels, toilet paper, household cleaners  
Thank you for your support of this local endeavor.

**April Lectionary Readings****April 3 - 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

Joshua 5:9-12; Psalms 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

**April 10 - Palm/Passion Sunday**

Palms: Luke 19:28-40; Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29

Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalms 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56; Luke 23:1-49

**April 14 - Maundy Thursday**

Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10), 11-14; Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

**April 15 - Good Friday**

Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalms 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42

**April 17 - Easter Sunday**

Acts 10:34-43; Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; Acts 10:34-43;

Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18

**April 24 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

Acts 5:27-32; Psalms 118:14-29; Psalms 150; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 7:1-16; Psalms 2; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

**Holy Week  
Worship  
Schedule**

**Palm Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**: Meyersville Presbyterian Church, 10:00 a.m.

**Maundy Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>**: First Presbyterian Church Stirling, 7:30 p.m.

**Good Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>**: We will be holding our Good Friday Vigil from noon to 6 pm in Meyersville. All are invited to sign up for a time slot to sit in the sanctuary to bear witness to Jesus' experience on that day. There will be suggested Bible readings and devotional material available, or you are welcome to sit quietly and enjoy the beauty and silence of the sanctuary.

Good Friday Tenebrae worship service, Meyersville, 7:30 p.m.

**Easter Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**: Our Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Sunday morning will begin with a service at Hillview (Kielblock) Farm in Gillette at 7:00 a.m.

We will then celebrate Christ's resurrection with a service in Stirling at 10:00 a.m.

## Diorama - 3D Map of Holy Week

Our sermon series for Lent has followed Jesus on his journey through the last week of his earthly life from Palm Sunday through Easter. The gospel of Mark carefully describes what Jesus did and what happened on each of those days. For most of those days, Jesus and his disciples stayed with friends, Mary and Martha, a couple of miles outside the city of Jerusalem, walking each day into the city to turn over the tables in the temple, to engage in verbal confrontations with various folks who wanted to trick and trap him, to have dinner in an upper room.

Thanks to the FPC Worship Committee, we have a **beautiful 3D map or diorama in the sanctuary that portrays the important locations of that last week**. It has been very helpful in contextualizing the events so that we have a sense of both geography and timing and can picture and understand the story as Mark tells it. Many thanks to the Worship Committee! Please be sure to take a look at the display when you have a chance.



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## The Days of Holy Week - Their Significance

**Palm Sunday**: This is the day of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on a donkey. He was greeted by enthusiastic crowds who shouted, "Hosanna!" and laid palm branches and their cloaks on the ground before him. This was the traditional way to welcome a royal person to the city.

**Maundy Thursday**: On Maundy Thursday, we remember Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples, the evening when he washed his disciples' feet and commanded them to "Love one another as I have loved you." The word, "Maundy" comes from the Latin word for "command."

**Good Friday**: Good Friday is the day when we remember Jesus' death on the cross. We are told that he hung on the cross at Golgotha from noon to 3 and that the curtain in the temple that hid the Holy of Holies was torn from top to bottom. Even though it seems it should be called "Bad Friday" because of Jesus' suffering and death, it was a very good day for all Christians in that it marks the day of Jesus' death and the beginning of a new and different relationship with God.

**Easter Sunday or Resurrection Day**: This is the greatest day in the life of the world – the day God defeated death and Jesus rose victorious from his grave. His resurrection means that the eternal consequences of human sin are erased, and that we, as Jesus' brothers and sisters, are also welcome to life eternal. Truly a day for celebration.

## Liturgists Needed for Worship Services

We need Liturgists each week to do readings for both the in-person and on-line worship services. **For the month of April, we will be worshipping in Meyersville (except for Maundy Thursday); all recordings will be done in Stirling**, typically on Thursday early evenings (other arrangements can be made if needed).



To sign up, please contact Jan Somers. If Jan contacts you about reading, 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

### 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 children from the Montessori School often decorate the bags and write messages to the recipients. 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 monetary donations to Elsie Turqman. 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](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 save newspaper 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.



## Pop-Top Can Tabs

- Jan Somers



Please continue to save pop-top can tabs, any size. **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, you can give them to me any Sunday morning, or I can pick them up from you. Thank you for your continued support of this program.



### **Exciting Career News!!**

Congratulations to Alison Peters, who recently shared the wonderful news that she has been **approved for Ordination into the Unitarian Universalist Church**. Many of you will remember Ali as she grew up in our church from before the age of three when her dad, the Rev. Tom Peters, became our pastor. Ali comes from a long line of ministers from both mom and dad along with her grandfather and great-grandfather.



Ali thanks all the good folks of First Presbyterian Church of Stirling for all the love and support she received from everyone over the past years. She is currently an Assistant Minister at Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Appleton, Wisconsin. We send lots of good wishes to Ali as she prepares for her upcoming ordination and want her to know she will be in our thoughts and prayers. Congratulations again, Ali! Well deserved! We are all so proud of you! ([Click here](#) to find recorded sermons by Ali)



### **Upcoming Graduations**

**- Jan Somers**

Please send me the names and specifics regarding graduates in your families so they can be recognized for their achievements at the appropriate time. Thank you.

### **Oscar Movie Nights**

Although the Oscars have already been presented, we will continue to view movies on Friday nights.

#### **April 1: Being the Ricardos**

Follows Lucy and Desi as they face a crisis that could end their careers and another that could end their marriage. Biographical drama with Nicole Kidman as Lucille Ball. Rated R. See trailers at: [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt4995540/?ref=vp\\_back](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt4995540/?ref=vp_back)

#### **April 8: CODA**

As a CODA (Child of Deaf Adults), Ruby is the only hearing person in her deaf family. When the family's fishing business is threatened, Ruby finds herself torn between pursuing her love of music by wanting to go to Berklee College of Music and her fear of abandoning her parents. Rated PG-13. Won Oscars for Best Picture, Best Supporting Actor, and Best Adapted Screenplay. See trailers at: [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt10366460/?ref=fn\\_al\\_tt\\_1](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt10366460/?ref=fn_al_tt_1)

Our movies will be shown on Friday nights at the Millington Firehouse at 7:30 pm. Many thanks to Ruud Zijdel and Ed Gerech for providing the movies and the place! Friday nights in May will bring **King Richard** and others.

**Meyserville Book Club****- Jan Somers**

The Book Club's current selection is, ***"The Four Winds,"*** a novel by Kristin Hannah. The group will be meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 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. The book is available at local libraries.



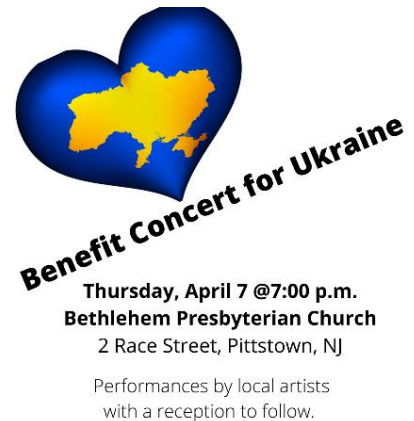
*Texas 1934: Millions are out of work and a drought has broken the Great Plains. Farmers are fighting to keep their land and their livelihoods as the crops are failing, the water is drying up, and dust threatens to bury them all. One of the darkest periods of the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl era, has arrived with a vengeance.*

*In this uncertain and dangerous time, Elsa Martinelli—like so many of her neighbors—must make an agonizing choice: fight for the land she loves or go west, to California, in search of a better life. The Four Winds is an indelible portrait of America and the American Dream, as seen through the eyes of one indomitable woman whose courage and sacrifice will come to define a generation.*

**Benefit For Aid to Humanitarian Crisis in the Ukraine**

Our church received the following information regarding a benefit concert to be held on **Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m., at the Bethlehem Presbyterian Church, Pittstown, NJ.**

*"All financial donations generated from this event will go to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program to provide emergency humanitarian aid within Ukraine and for the refugees beyond the Ukrainian border. Join us in praying for a peaceful solution and an end to the violence."*

**Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey**

**"How do we have Christian, courageous conversations about "sticky wicket" issues?"**

Saturday, April 2, 2022

Taiwanese/American Fellowship Presbyterian Church, 770 Route 206 South, Hillsborough Township

Registration 9:30 a.m.; \$5.00; Program starts at 10:00 a.m.; Lunch, coffee, tea, etc. provided

How to: Facilitated by Jenny Lee, Immediate Past Moderator of PW Churchwide

Practice conversation: What is "fair trade" and how do we make buying decisions?

Worship will be led by Rev. Amy Lincoln, Pastor of the Flemington Presbyterian Church.

Church is located on Route 206, south of Somerville. Parking is on Homestead Road, a right turn from 206 South.

**Earth Day – Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>****- Jan Somers**

Each year on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, billions of people across the globe join together to raise awareness about environmental protection. Earth Day was first celebrated in the US on April 22, 1970. Today around 1 billion people in 193 countries take part in Earth Day and resolve to protect the environment and biodiversity.

The theme for this year's Earth Day celebration is "Invest in Our Planet." The key point here is to **act in a bold way, innovate in a broad way, and implement in an equitable manner.**

Every government, every business, and every individual in this world has a voice. No one person can do it all. But now is the time. Together, we can make a difference.

Smart and Innovative companies are realizing that going green will help us all. It is now vital that all business leaders become engaged in shaping the future for sustainability. It's time to take the **benefit of a green economy** by adopting it. All governments need to encourage society, institutions, and businesses to build a framework for supporting a stable future.



There are many ways you can help. Go to [EARTHDAY.ORG](http://EARTHDAY.ORG) and find out how you can join over 1 billion participants around the world and take action on April 22nd.

"We must recognize that we're all part of a web of life around the world." Gaylord Nelson, Founder of Earth Day

**When it comes to the Earth, there is no time to waste.**

**RUMMAGE SALE**

**May 6 & 7**                      **May 8**  
9:30am - 3:30pm              12:30 - 3:30pm

**Far Hills Fairgrounds**

**DONATIONS ACCEPTED**

**April 9-26, 2022**

10:00am - 1:00pm  
Monday through Saturday

**Atlantic Visiting Nurse Rummage Sale**  
**(formerly VNA of Somerset Hills)**

The biannual rummage sale in Far Hills is their major fundraiser. The funds they receive help provide home health and hospice care for uninsured and underinsured patients.

## **2022 Session and Deacon Responsibilities**

Following are the 2022 Elder and Deacon responsibilities. Please keep this information to refer to in the event you need to contact someone on a specific committee during the year.

### **Elders**

Clerk of Session  
Treasurer  
Presbytery Commissioner

Facilities & Property Management  
Fellowship & Membership  
Finance & Stewardship  
Mission  
Nominating  
Personnel  
Worship  
Christian Education

Susan Brodziak  
Kai Ihringer  
Rotated/Assigned  
by Committee

Lynn Blakeslee  
Joyce Koenig  
Kai Ihringer  
Paul Wermuth  
Ed Gerecht  
Kai Ihringer, Ed Gerecht  
Joyce Koenig  
TBD



### **Board of Deacons**

Moderator  
Treasurer  
Recording Secretary  
Corresponding Secretary  
Mission and Outreach  
Flowers  
Deacons' Corner (for Stirling Stuff)  
Paraments  
Communion Preparation  
Kitchen Supplies (for Coffee Hour)  
Reception Coordinator

Carolyn Malfatone  
Elsie Turqman  
Susan Gerecht  
Janet Parziale  
Kimberly Ridgway  
Shared by all Deacons  
Janet Parziale  
Marie Darby  
Shared by all Deacons  
Shared by all Deacons  
Shared by all Deacons





**Ongoing Mission Programs:**

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

Please e-mail submissions for the  
February 2022 issue of Stirling Stuff to:  
[jsomers17@hotmail.com](mailto:jsomers17@hotmail.com)  
by April 21<sup>st</sup>. 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

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Stirling, NJ 07980

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Website: [www.fpcstirling.org](http://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.

