

The Messenger & Stirling Stuff June 2023



First Presbyterian Church
158 Central Ave.
Stirling, NJ 07980
908-647-1033
www.fpcstirling.org

Meyersville Presbyterian Church
223 Hickory Tavern Road
Gillette, NJ 07933
908-647-0390
www.meyersvillechurch.com

Pastor's Note

What a warm and generous welcome I have received from both First Presbyterian Church of Stirling and Meyersville Presbyterian Church as I start as your full-time pastor. (This Pentecost, May 28th, was my first Sunday!) I am truly excited to have been called to minister to two congregations who are engaged in shared ministry.

Over the next several months, I will spend time getting to know you collectively and individually. I'm curious to discover what is unique about Meyersville Presbyterian Church and what is unique about First Presbyterian Church of Stirling. Becoming familiar with what you value and your "church's personality" separately as congregations with help me to help you discern where God is leading for the future. My plan is to find and create opportunities to meet with every congregant this summer. I am your pastor; your stories, struggles, and questions are of importance to me. If you are open to a visit from me in your home—I'd love to schedule a time. If you would like to join me for lunch at Casa Maya with a few other folks, perhaps we can start a "taco Tuesday" time with the pastor or a "Wet your Whistle Wednesday" and have coffee/tea at the Stirling Diner. Come July, I will be phoning everyone in both church directories. I don't have an agenda; I just want to get to know the good people of both churches as we begin to serve together.

I ask now and into the future -- if you would like me to pray for you, are in the hospital and want a visit, have a joy you'd like to lift in thanksgiving or need anything else -- please reach out to me directly. For emergencies, please call my cell phone, 973-722-2304. Leave a message with all your details. If you don't need an immediate response from me, I can also be reach via email at pastor@fpcstirling.org or pastor@meyersville.org. Jan Somers, secretary for both churches, will be able to direct messages to me as well during the week. I will physically be at Meyersville on Tuesdays and at Stirling on Wednesdays.

Come July, I hope to be in a rhythm and will share office hours then. I do keep Sunday evenings and Monday as my family and Sabbath time, so will not respond to church work unless there is an emergency. Saturdays are personal days-- but I'm more flexible when it comes to working (after all, chores can wait, right?). Trusting in the goodness and grace of God, I enthusiastically look forward to the important and meaningful ministry we will share.

Your Pastor,
Stefanie

What's in a name?

- I use the German spelling of Stefanie- with an "F."
- Muntzel rhymes with Pretzel.
- I have been married to Rev. Rich Gelson for 11 years. We decided not to have two Rev. Gelsons in the family, so I kept my maiden name.
- People ask what to call me. I will often introduce myself in the community as Pastor Stefanie. I will not be offended if you call me Rev. Muntzel, Pastor, Pastor Stefanie, or even just Stefanie... *just don't call me late to dinner.* Feel free to groan. Ha!

Upcoming Worship Schedule

During the month of June, our Sunday worship services will be held in Meyersville at 10:00 a.m. **If you need a ride to church, please call upon a fellow church member; they are happy to help.** There is an elevator in Meyersville which will take you up to the sanctuary. Our online services will continue each week and are accessible through a link delivered by email and on both church websites. The online service can be viewed at any time. DVDs of the service are also available and may be requested through the church office. Notices of the worship location will be posted on the church doors so, if there is confusion, there will be time to dash to the other church and just be a few minutes late. Latecomers are always welcome!

**Liturgists Needed for Worship Services**

We need Liturgists each week to do readings for both the in-person and online worship services. Recordings are typically done on Thursdays, late afternoon (other arrangements can be made, if needed).

To sign up, please contact Jan Somers (FPC), James Thorn (MPC), or leave a message at your church office. If you are contacted about reading, **please respond as soon as possible regarding if/when you will be available.** Your

readings will be emailed to you, along with confirmation of the location and time for the online recording.

**Stewardship: Weekly Contributions**

Whether you worship in person or online, please try to keep your pledges current. Expenses for maintaining the buildings and grounds, paying our staff, and keeping up with our mission support are ongoing. You can send your weekly offering/pledge to your church office.

June Lectionary Readings**June 4 – Trinity Sunday**

Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8; 2nd Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

June 11 – 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 12:1-9; Psalm 33:1-12

June 18 – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

June 25 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17



Our Church Missions

Mission of the Month: June

Our Joint-Church Mission Committee has chosen **Village 2 Village as the Mission of the Month for June.** Village2Village supports vulnerable children through education, medical care, nutrition, and social and spiritual mentoring. It builds relationships with children and families one at a time, seeing them as individuals with untapped potential to change their communities.



Village2Village began in 2003 with only \$100 to help nine school-aged children in Uganda who lived with elderly and sick grandparents or no adults at all. This \$100 bought one bag of rice and beans, nine school uniforms, and nine backpacks. It has grown to serve 200+, many with special needs including HIV/AIDS. With God's help and support from congregations like ours, it has become a staffed organization, recognized by Uganda as non-governmental organization (NGO) since 2006. After many years of fiscal sponsorship by First Baptist Church of Bristol, Vermont,

Village2Village Project became a separate 501c3 charitable organization at the end of 2016. They now have partners in 40 countries, reaching out from their "villages" into rural Africa to serve some of the world's most desperate children. Village2Village Project has growing University and vocational programs, and their first students are graduating and beginning to give back to their community. Their goal is always to meet the individual needs of each child so they can reach their potential and change their world. They continue to grow because the need is so desperate. To learn more about how V2V helps change the world, go to Village2Village Project:

<https://village2villageproject.org/>

If you would like to support this ministry, please mark your donation "MOM," or "V2V," and place it in the offering plate or send it to your church office. Thank you.



Bridges Outreach Lunch Program

- Janet Parziale

We continue to provide 40 bag lunches to the Bridges Outreach organization for distribution to the homeless in Newark, Irvington, and NYC. The sandwiches, drinks, and non-perishable goodies are delivered to Summit monthly in brown lunch bags. The children from the Long Hill Montessori School often decorate the lunch bags. Our **next commitment** date for preparing 40 lunches is: **Tuesday, June 27th, 9:30 a.m., in Pollard Hall.** Your help in making these lunches would be greatly appreciated. If you are available to help, please speak to Janet Parziale.



Twelve Baskets Food Pantry - Moving to FPC-Stirling in June

Our local Food Pantry, Twelve Baskets, currently housed at All Saints' Church in Millington, will be moving to FPC-Stirling for the months of July, August, and September again this year. Jointly sponsored by FPC-Stirling, Meyersville, All Saints', and LHT CERT, the food pantry has been serving guests two Saturday mornings per month. Shelf stable food as well as meat, dairy products, eggs, and fresh produce are available for food insecure families in our area.



Some of the food will be stored at FPC-Stirling, and guests will come there on the scheduled Saturday mornings. Volunteer help is needed to set up the tables and put out the food in Pollard Hall as well as serve guests on the days the pantry is open. Help is also needed in picking up food from the distribution center in Hillside. There is plenty to do, and the volunteer opportunities are well organized. **Please contact Lynn Blakeslee (FPC) or Doris Mertz (MPC) if you would like to contribute an hour or two of your time.** For more information on this program, go to: <http://www.allsaintsmillington.org/outreach.html>

If you or someone you know is in need of food or other non-grocery items, please call the food bank office at 908-647-0067 (Ext. 4) and leave a confidential message.

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 Ronald McDonald House Charities**—a nonprofit charity dedicated to supporting families with sick children in their time of need. You can give them to me on Sunday morning, leave them at either church office, or I can pick them up from you. Thank you for your ongoing support of this program!

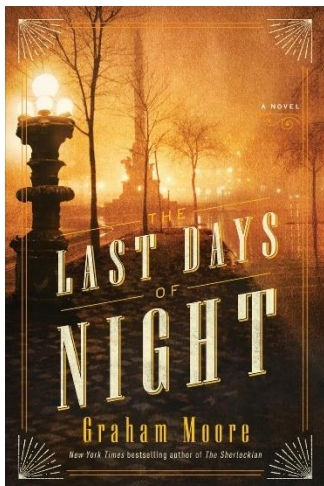
Fundraiser: ShopRite Gift Cards



For several years, both of our churches have been selling ShopRite gift cards (known as the *Voucher Program*). For every \$100 sold, the church earns \$5; that is, we get 5% of all sales. Over the course of a year, that can add up to a significant addition to our church budget. Everyone buys food and other necessities. Why not use the gift cards for that purpose and help the church at the same time? The gift cards come in \$20, \$50, and \$100 denominations. They never expire; you can continue to use them until the balance is \$0.

To purchase these gift cards for yourself or as a gift, **please contact Lynn Blakeslee (FPC) or Doris Mertz (MPC).** They will be more than happy to get them to you. Thank you for helping in this special way.

Meyersville Book Club



The book club's current selection is *The Last Days of Night*, a novel of historical fiction by Graham Moore. The group will be meeting on Wednesday, July 5th, 7:30 p.m., via Zoom. Everyone is welcome to join the group; please leave a message at the Meyersville church office (908-647-0390) so you will receive the Zoom link. The book is available in various formats at local libraries.

New York, 1888. Gas lamps still flicker in the city streets, but the miracle of electric light is in its infancy. The person who controls the means to turn night into day will make history--and a vast fortune. A young untested lawyer named Paul Cravath, fresh out of Columbia Law School, takes a case that seems impossible to win. Paul's client, George Westinghouse, has been sued by Thomas Edison over a billion-dollar question: Who invented the light bulb and holds the right to power the country? The story follows Cravath as he attempts to discern who invented the light bulb: Thomas Edison, George Westinghouse, or Nikola Tesla. The Washington Post named "The Last Days of Night" one of the best books of 2016.

Church Websites and Facebook Pages

Keep up to date with events, pastor's sermons, monthly missions, book club, church history, and much more by visiting your church website: meyersvillechurch.com and the Facebook page www.facebook.com/MeyersvillePresbyterianChurch; www.fpcstirling.org and the Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/fpcStirling/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel. Make it a point to check in regularly on your Church website. It is a wealth of information where you can also find links to the online services and monthly newsletters.

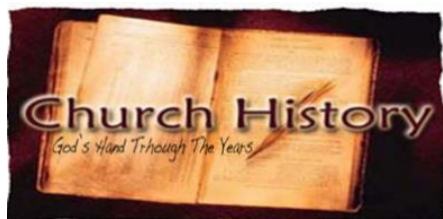
First Presbyterian Church - Stirling

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 Kimberly Ridgway know so that a card can be sent letting them know we are thinking about them.



Church Archives



In 2023, FPC-Stirling will celebrate its **150th** anniversary. The Worship Committee is planning a special Archive Sunday in September to celebrate the occasion. Please continue to save news clippings, bulletins, programs, pictures, or other memorabilia regarding any member of the 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 put them in the "Archives" mailbox outside the church offices. Thank you.

More baby news to celebrate



On May 8th, Lucie & John Nakonechy welcomed a son, John Nicolo, who weighed 7 lbs.12 oz. Proud grandparents are John's mom and dad, Jean and John (Rosol). Lynn Rosol is delighted with 2 great-grandchildren in 2 months! Congratulations to the happy family!



Church Family News

Lukas Ihringer, son of Lisa Wernett and Kai Ihringer, has started an internship in Toronto, Canada, as a financial analyst for Accuracy, a company specializing in mergers, acquisitions, and consulting services. They are headquartered in Paris, where Lukas will attend HEC University in September for his final year. He plans to graduate in the spring of 2024 with a Master's in Finance. Our best wishes to Lukas as he continues to pursue his goals.

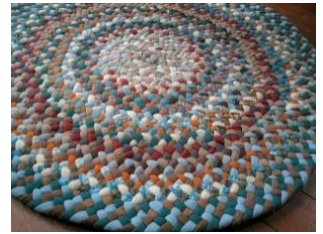
FPC-Stirling - Our Mission

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.

Meyersville Presbyterian Church

Rug Braiding

The group meets on **Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.** in the Meyersville parlor. They are a generous bunch and will help get you started if you have never done it before. The goal is to make a beautiful, braided rug out of wool strips. If you would like to participate, the best material for these rugs is medium weight 100% wool fabric. This can be fabric from sewing projects you never got to, wool skirts, coats, jackets, blankets that have perhaps worn out in the middle. The church also has a good supply of wool to get you started. If you are a knitter or have some other project you are working on, you are welcome as the company is good even if you aren't braiding!



Rummage Sale Coming in August

Plans are underway for a Rummage Sale to be held in August. More information will be provided in the summer issue of the newsletter, but please start collecting items for the sale. Household, kitchen, decorative items, and books are welcome. Please let your neighbors and friends know so they can start collecting. Kelly Roshto is spearheading this event; please contact her with any questions or to volunteer.

Your Garden Flowers Welcome

Do you have flowers in your garden that you'd like to share with the church? We would love to have fresh flowers in the sanctuary for our worship services (June and August) and for the video for our online services (July). Let Rev. Muntzel or Doris Mertz know that you have flowers to share, and you can bring your own arrangement or loose flowers that will be arranged for you. Please leave a message at the church office (908) 647-0390 or email Rev. Muntzel (pastor@meyersvillechurch.com) with the date you'd like to share some flowers.



Looking ahead to our Summer Worship Schedule

Our joint church Worship Committee and Rev. Muntzel met recently to discuss our summer worship schedule. For the month of July, we will worship in Stirling, starting at 9:30 a.m. During the month of August, we will worship in Meyersville for "Graze and Praise", beginning with a covered dish supper at 6:00 p.m., followed by worship at 7:00 p.m. We hope you will join us for worship when you are not traveling. On September 3rd, Labor Day Weekend, we will return to our 10:00 a.m. worship time in Stirling.



Welcoming our new minister and celebrating Pentecost

Pictures from our May 28th service welcoming Rev. Muntzel (and her first online service) and celebrating Pentecost:





Summer Newsletter: The deadline to submit items for the summer issue of the newsletter is June 22nd. You can email them to Jan or leave a message on either church office machine. Thank you.



The Messenger & Stirling Stuff
is the combined newsletter of

The Meyersville Presbyterian Church
and
The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling

Editor: Jan Somers



Rev. Stefanie Muntzel, Pastor
pastor@meyersvillechurch.com
Jan Somers, Church Secretary
office@meyersvillechurch.com
MPC Church Office: 908-647-0390
Website: www.meyersvillechurch.com

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Why not invite a friend to church!