

# The Messenger & Stirling Stuff

## NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

**First Presbyterian Church of Stirling & Meyersville Presbyterian Church**

*LONG HILL NJ PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES WORSHIPING TOGETHER*

### Pastor's Note

*"Worrying doesn't take away tomorrow's troubles. It takes away today's peace."*

I don't know who wrote or said the above quote, but I think it is very true. Unfortunately these pithy sayings don't often give us an alternative to worrying. This is why I love Jesus's advice in Matthew 26. Jesus says do not worry about life. But then he gives a very clear direction for what we ARE supposed to do: open our eyes and look around, look at the birds, look at the flowers in the fields, look and see how God provides! As I write this last line, I take a deep breath and I look out the window of my office. At Meyersville my view includes a beautiful garden and tall autumn trees. In Stirling, my view literally is of the memorial garden where so many lovely souls are remembered. As I open my eyes and heart, I recognize the ways God's generous care is reflected in all I see. I know God has been faithful. I know God provides.

Because God provides generously to us, we don't need to worry. Instead we are called to "strive first for the kingdom of God." God provides, as Jesus promises in this verse, and then we are invited to give thanks and share generously out of that provision.

There is much for which we can all give thanks. Worry needs to be put in perspective. As followers of a generous God, we are called to respond to God's faithfulness. This is what a church community is all about—every Sunday we celebrate God's generosity, we acknowledge God's goodness and we pledge to give back in praise, prayer and service.

Both our congregations' Sessions will be sending out Stewardship letters in November. What rich histories both churches have to be grateful for and celebrate. And what hopeful futures we all must also be ready to work towards. Please respond generously in thanksgiving and in faith.

Yours in Christ,

*Rev. Stefanie Muntzel*



*"And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ...*

*Therefore do not worry, ...*

*But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,  
and all these things will be given to you as well."*

Matthew 26

# WORSHIP



## November Worship

NOTE: Daylight Savings ends November 5th!

This month we will worship at **The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling**.

Our online services are accessible through a link delivered by email and are also posted on social media and on both church websites.

## All Saint's Sunday Remembrance

We will be observing *All Saints Sunday* on **November 5th**. This is a day when Christians give thanks for all the faithful people God has placed in their lives. During this service, we will take time to remember those special people who died during the past year. A candle will be lit as each name is read aloud.

## Stewardship Sunday

On **November 19th**, both our congregations will be dedicating their annual pledges to the ministry of our church. These are the financial commitments we make that reflect our understanding of ourselves as grateful Christians. All members will be receiving a letter with a pledge envelop. We will be putting our envelopes into the offering plate in the worship service on November 19th. If you cannot be in the worship service on that day, please mail your card to the church.

## Heritage Sunday

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF STIRLING'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY!

On the last Sunday of November is the last Sunday of the church calendar year, typically known as Christ the King Sunday. It is also a Sunday First Presbyterian Church of Stirling has celebrated as Heritage Sunday. And so we are pleased to share that on **November 26th**, Dave Paladino will once again be our **guest bagpiper!**



And this year we also add the great celebration of an **anniversary**—the 150th anniversary for First Presbyterian Church of Stirling.

The **archives** of the church will be on display for all to enjoy during a **special fellowship hour**. The archives include news clippings, bulletins, pro-



*On June 19th, 1873, 24 people signed a pledge to become members of a Presbyterian Church at Stirling, NJ, as soon as it can be in due form organized, under the care of the Presbytery of Morris and Orange. This pledge, met the approval of the Morris and Orange Church Executive Committee. The Committee then met at Stirling on July 9th, 1873, at two o'clock P.M., to organize the Presbyterian church. Nineteen letters were presented. The letters were accepted and the church consisting of nineteen members was duly organized.*



# MISSION

## Mission of the Month:

Twelve Baskets Food Pantry is a cooperative project of First Presbyterian Church of Stirling, Meyersville Presbyterian Church, All Saints' Episcopal Church, and the Long Hill Township CERT & Community Services.

We welcome volunteers. Please reach out to Kristen Oleske, who coordinates volunteers for Twelve Basket's Pantry, at [oleske@oleskelaw.com](mailto:oleske@oleskelaw.com). If you would like to support this important ministry as a volunteer and have questions, you may also contact church members Lynn Blakeslee (FPC) or Doris Mertz (MPC). To make a donation in November mark your check or envelope with **"12 Baskets"**. 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.



## Bridges Outreach Lunch Program

Won't YOU help provide bag lunches to feed unhoused people in Newark, Irvington, and NYC? The sandwiches, drinks, and non-perishable goodies are delivered to Summit monthly in brown lunch bags. Our next commitment date for preparing lunches is Tuesday, November 28th at 9:30 a.m., in Pollard Hall. Your help would be so appreciated. If you are available, please speak to Janet Parziale.

## Market Street Mission Turkey Collection

If you qualify for a free turkey from the grocery and do not plan to use it, please considering taking it to FPC, Stirling on the Saturday morning before Thanksgiving. Tom Parziale will be at the church from 10-11 a.m. on Saturday, **November 18th**, to collect the turkeys (please keep turkeys frozen). He will then deliver them to Market Street Mission in Morristown where they will be part of a Thanksgiving meal served at the mission.

In existence in Morristown since 1889, Market Street Mission's mission "is to surround our homeless, hungry and those struggling with addiction with God's love and everything they need to get back on their feet – food and shelter, counseling and job training, spiritual guidance and Bible study – to live stable, productive lives in our community. Our vision is to empower hurting people to rebuild their lives through the power of Jesus Christ. With His love guiding them, and with a strong community of believers surrounding them, we believe they will claim victory over their struggles." (from Market Street Mission's website)



# CONGREGATIONAL CARE

## Deacons Corner

**Know someone who needs a card?** We know the power of prayer in giving strength and encouragement when someone needs it the most. If you know of someone who needs a card, please let Kim Ridgway of the FPC deacons or Sue Hahn of the MPC deacons know so a card can be sent.



## Fellowship Hour

Please consider volunteering to host a coffee hour. You can do so yourself or by partnering with a deacon, congregational life committee member or just another church friend.

Our Fellowship Hours are thoroughly appreciated by everyone.



If you wish to host Fellowship Hour for Sundays when we worship at First Presbyterian Church of Stirling please speak with deacon, Susan Gerecht (FPC) or sign up in Pollard Hall.

And to host or help with Fellowship Hour when we worship at Meyersville Church, speak with Kelly Roshto (MPC).





# STEWARDSHIP



**STEWARDSHIP** is how we use our God-given gifts; it is how we use our talents, our time, and our resources. In our church context, stewardship is the way we use all our resources to carry on Christ's work of faith, love and hope in the world.

**PLEDGE CAMPAIGN** is an effort to ask our congregation to communicate how much they can and will support the ministry of the church financially in a given year. Each member and active participant is asked to "make a pledge". Knowing what members will give, allows the church leadership to plan the church budget in the year ahead. Will we have the funds to pay for the utilities, pay staff salaries, give to mission partners and provide worship and other services for our congregations and broader community?

"And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field... Indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 26

## Sharing the Gifts We Have Been Given...

November 19, 2023

## STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

PLEASE MAKE YOUR 2024  
PLEDGE.



## THANKSGIVING PIES

It is a tradition of the Meyersville Presbyterian Church to gather together to make and then sell delicious pies right before the Thanksgiving holiday. This year, there will again be an opportunity to peel apples, roll pie crust and sell and buy pies for Thanksgiving. The pies will be baked on Wednesday, the day before Thanksgiving, with pick-up for sold pies that day.

If you would like to order pies, please fill out the order form below and return it with your **payment by Monday, the 21st.** (Cash or check) You may mail it to the church or call the church office with your order.

Pies will be available for **pick-up** at the church on **Wednesday afternoon, from 2-3, on November 22nd..** *Large apple or pumpkin pies are \$20.*

### ORDER FORM

Apple or Pumpkin?	Quantity	Price
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
		Total _____

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



### *Meyersville Presbyterian Church*

Address: 223 Hickory Tavern Road - Gillette, NJ 07933

Telephone: 908 647-0390

# POINSETTIAS

## 2023 Christmas Poinsettias Order Form (FPC)

The Deacons for First Presbyterian Church of Stirling are ordering poinsettias for Christmas. Please use the form below to place your order and specify if you are ordering in memory or honor of someone special in your life.

The deadline to order is Sunday, December 3rd

Price: **\$12.00**

Color: **Red**

<u>How Many</u>	<u>Total Price</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



TOTALS \_\_\_\_\_

Purchased in MEMORY / HONOR (Please circle one) of :

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Given By:

(Please print clearly)

Please check one: To be picked up at the church: \_\_\_\_\_ To be donated: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit your order and payment to the First Presbyterian Church (158 Central Ave., Stirling, NJ 07980) or place this or another form in the offering plate on Sunday.

Make checks payable to: **FPC-Deacons** and note: **Christmas Poinsettia** on your check.

\*\*\*Deadline to order: Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**You may pick up your poinsettia following the Christmas Eve service.**

### MEYESVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MEMBERS

Meyersville's congregation has a different practice around Poinsettias. If you have questions regarding Christmas flowers, please speak with Doris Mertz.

# NOVEMBER 2023 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <b>MPC SESSION</b> 6:30PM, MPC	2	3	4 
5 <b>ALL SAINTS SUNDAY</b> 10am Worship, FPC 11am Fellowship 11:30 am Bell Choir, MPC	6	7	8	9	10	11 
12 10am Worship, FPC 11am Fellowship 11:30 am Bell Choir, MPC	13	14	15 (10am, Moms Group, FPC)	16 (10:30am MEA-NJ Mtg, FPC)	17	18 <b>TURKEY COLLECTION</b> 10-11am, FPC
19 <b>STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY</b> 10am Worship, FPC 11am Fellowship 11:30 am Bell Choir, MPC  (1pm, Piano Recital @ FPC)	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21	22 <b>THANKSGIVING PIES</b> Pick-up, 2-3pm MPC	23 	24	25
26 <b>150th ANNIVERSARY FIRST PRESBYTERIAN</b> 10am Worship, FPC 11am CELEBRATION and ARCHIVES, FPC	27	28 <b>BRIDGES LUNCHES</b> 9:30AM, FPC  <b>FPC SESSION</b> 6PM, FPC	29	30		

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Sunday  
Worship,  
10 AM



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The Messenger & Stirling Stuff is the **combined newsletter** of  
The Meyersville Presbyterian Church and  
The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling, both in Long Hill NJ.  
The deadline for November newsletter is November 20th.  
Submissions can be sent to Rev. Muntzel at  
[StefanieMinFaith@gmail.com](mailto:StefanieMinFaith@gmail.com).



## First Presbyterian Church of Stirling

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## Meyersville Presbyterian Church

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