

The Messenger & Stirling Stuff

SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

First Presbyterian Church of Stirling & Meyersville Presbyterian Church

LONG HILL NJ PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES

Summer once was a time I considered, slow-paced. This goes all the way, way back, when I was a young child out of school—Oh the lazy days of summer. There were long days of playing with neighborhood kids. When my mom called us home to dinner the sky was still bright with light. September was when the sun started to set a bit earlier and the pace of life picked up. Summer was over. It was time to go back to school. These days I am practically an ‘empty-nester’. Our youngest was away a good portion of the summer and packed himself up for college (he is pretty independent). So there is no “start of a school year”. But old habits die hard— September still feels like a start of the year.

And so I am looking forward to the start of our church “program” year this month. There will not be an official rally day. But I do hope September will be a time YOU hear and respond to Christ’s call to once again, **“Come, follow me”**. The Gospel of Matthew and Mark report the call of the first disciples by the Sea of Galilee:

AS JESUS WAS WALKING BESIDE THE SEA OF GALILEE, HE SAW TWO BROTHERS, CALLED PETER AND HIS BROTHER ANDREW. THEY WERE CASTING A NET INTO THE LAKE, FOR THEY WERE FISHERMEN. "COME, FOLLOW ME," JESUS SAID, "AND I WILL SEND YOU OUT TO FISH FOR PEOPLE." AT ONCE THEY LEFT THEIR NETS AND FOLLOWED HIM.

That first call to the disciples was not a beckoning to come to worship, or to come enjoy fellowship with other disciples. Those are certainly important aspects of what it meant and means to “follow” Jesus. However when Jesus called to those fishermen, he was calling them to a brand new way of life. Jesus set the pace and led the way. Jesus was calling those everyday folks to come and then to **go** and find people who would also “come and follow” in the path of faith, hope and love. The joint worship committee understands it is hard to start new ways of being, including being a disciple who invites others to church. And so we are hosting a “bring a friend to church” Sunday on September 17th. Our theme will be ‘holy humor’. Won’t you consider inviting someone to join you that Sunday? God is inviting us all to a fresh start in our journey of following Jesus! I look forward to sharing that journey with you in September.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

Email: StefanieMinfaith@gmail.com



WORSHIP



September Worship

Morning worship services return to **Sundays at 10am**.

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.

Our theme for *Bring a Friend to Church Sunday* is Holy Humor!

Sunday, September 17th is the time to **invite and bring a friend to church** – to show that while we take our faith very seriously, we do not take ourselves too seriously! Invite someone to join us to celebrate the sacred gifts of laughter and joy! This service includes hymns about joy, scriptures focused on laughter and joy, and a special time of telling jokes related to faith and the church.

Submit your favorite “church appropriate” joke

The top jokes may make it into the Rev. Muntzel’s sermon!

Email jokes/cartoons to stefanieminfaith@gmail.com



Bring a Friend To Church Sunday

INVITE A FRIEND? Inviting friends from the other areas of your life to join you at church is special. Here are a few reasons why:

1. **Jesus calls us to do it.** If we are to be more like Jesus then we should mimic how he lived his life. And Jesus was all about relationships, sharing meals, and spending time with friends.
2. **It can build relationships.** An invitation to an acquaintance or friend to come to church can lead your friendship to a deepen. And think about it: It’s more fun to share experiences with friends – the same is true for going to church!
3. **It’s the loving thing to do.** When you really care about someone, you want the best for them. If faith brings us joy, we should share the experience!

It can be a little scary to cross “that line” and ask someone to come to church with you. But there are natural opportunities we can take advantage of when your friends will be more open to say ‘yes’. This is why we are hosting a **HOLY HUMOR Sunday on September 17th**. Please bring a friend

Worship continued...

Liturgists Needed for Worship Services

Liturgists are needed each week for both the in-person and online worship services. Recordings are typically done late afternoon on Thursdays (other arrangements can be made, if needed). Please contact Janet Parziale (FPC), James Thorn (MPC), or leave a message at either church office to volunteer your voice and presence. Your readings will be emailed to you.



Sunday Lectionary Readings

Sept 3rd

First Reading Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c
Second Reading Romans 12:9-21
Gospel Matthew 16:21-28

Sept 10th

First Reading Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 149:1-9
Second Reading Romans 13:8-14
Gospel Matthew 18:15-20

Sept 17th

First Reading Exodus 14:19-31
Psalm 114:1-8
Second Reading Romans 14:1-12
Gospel Matthew 18:21-35

Sept 24th

First Reading Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45



Stewardship: Weekly Contributions

Whether you worship in person or online, please 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.

Revised Pew Brochures

Please take note: Our joint worship committee is working to update the pew brochures which help visitors understand our worship service.

Handbell Choir Resumes

Would you like to make a joyful noise to the Lord? Our Handbell Choir will resume in October. The choir is open to anyone who is willing to try! Practice is held on Sunday afternoons. If you are interested please speak with Tatiana Akh



Sunday
Worship,
10 AM

MISSION

Mission of the Month:

Church World Service, Blankets

For over 75 years, Church World Service has been helping people of faith bring God’s hope and healing people in the U.S. and around the world. When difficult times happen, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That’s why the CWS Blankets program was created—to give a kind, loving and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone.



to

Through the generosity of CWS partner organizations, congregations and individual supporters, our most vulnerable neighbors around the world can feel safe and keep warm with fresh linens and clean sleeping quarters. When our neighbors are in need, even \$10 for a single blanket goes a long way. To make a donation in September mark your check or envelope with “MoM” (Mission of Month) or CWS.

Bridges Outreach Lunch Program

Won’t YOU help provide bag lunches to the homeless 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, September 26th, at 9:30 a.m., in Pollard Hall. Your help would be so appreciated. If you are available, please speak to Janet Parziale.

Twelve Baskets Food Pantry

Twelve Baskets Food Pantry is housed at the First Presbyterian Church of Stirling in September. Shelf stable food as well as meat, dairy products, eggs, and fresh produce are available for food insecure families in our area. The September pantry schedule is the first and third Thursday (September 7th and 21st) from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM. Please contact Lynn Blakeslee (FPC) or Doris Mertz (MPC) if you

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.

like to
port
im-
portant
minis-



would
sup-
this
try.

Mission continued...

Pop-Top Can Tabs - Jan Somers

Please continue to save pop-top can tabs, any size. The tabs are sold 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, Jan Somers, on Sunday morning, leave them at either church office, or I can pick them up. Thank you for your ongoing support of this program!

Natural Disasters

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) urges your support in response to the devastating wildfires in **Hawai'i**, which authorities are calling the deadliest natural disaster in state history. PDA has already released emergency grants to meet the urgent needs of the communities and to provide immediate care. The magnitude of this event will require the development of long-term projects and assistance, both for the physical and emotional long-lasting effects. Years of recovery lie ahead, and your commitment will help PDA extend the hands of Christ. Emergency needs include but are not limited to food, shelter, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), medicine and more. Gifts can be made online at pcusa.org or by phone at (800) 872-3283. Checks can be made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and mailed to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700. You can support the specific fund by marking your PDA donation for [U.S. Wildfires /Hawai'i Wildfires \(DR000165\)](#). Or you can direct your support to the [U.S.A. Disasters and Emergencies fund \(DR000015\)](#) which enables a significant, initial response to major national disasters and emergencies throughout the USA.



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

OTHER NEWS

Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Highlands

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2023 – 10:00 AM

Hybrid Meeting – In Person and Via Zoom

In Person: Pluckemin Presbyterian Church, 279 Route 202-206, Pluckemin, NJ 07978

Register online by Sept 6th at 5pm at (highlandspresbytery.org)

9/11 Vigil at Tower of Remembrance

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023- 7:00 PM

Shrine of Saint Joseph - Tower Grounds,
1050 Long Hill Road, Stirling, NJ

2023 Fall Rummage Sale – Far Hills Fairgrounds

Atlantic Visiting Nurse (formerly Visiting Nurse Association - VNA

Friday, October 6; Saturday, October 7; Sunday, October 8

Donations Accepted: Sept 9 – 26, 10 am to 1 pm

(Monday – Saturday)



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND CARE



150th Anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church

In 2023, First Presbyterian Church of Stirling joyfully marks its 150th anniversary.

The Worship Committee is planning events to celebrate the occasion in November, including an **Archive Sunday**.

Please continue to save news clippings, bulletins, programs, pictures, or other memorabilia regarding any member of the church family. And if possible, highlight the names of church members in the material. Items can be mailed to the Church (labeled "Archives") or put in the "Archives" mailbox which is outside the church offices at First Presbyterian Church of Stirling.



Summer Reunions

Tom and Janet Parziale had a wonderful trip to Iowa to visit their son, David, and his family, Brooke, Eleanor, and Ben. On their drive home, they took a small detour to visit the Rev. Ali Peters at her church in North Royalton, Ohio – South West Unitarian Universalist Church. Ali is feeling right at home as she completes her first year as pastor.

Ali's Mom, Barbara, was also visiting after spending a week in Chautauqua, a family favorite. It was great to catch up over lunch and enjoy a super tour of Ali's church.



Ali, Justin, and Barbara are all doing well and keeping busy. If you are ever out that way, feel free to stop by and visit.

Ali and Justin are only minutes off interstate 80, outside Cleveland, Ohio. And, if you visit on a Sunday morning, you are always welcome to share in their service! Stay and enjoy a delicious coffee hour afterwards!

First Presbyterian Church of Stirling and Meyersville Presbyterian Church, Long Hill NJ

Congregational Life and Care continued...

Meyersville Rummage Sale Success

August 18th and 19th was a lovely weekend which brought lots of folks to Meyersville Presbyterian Church. People came to look for treasures and a bargain at our annual Rummage Sale —and they found plenty! The sale made **\$4800!**

Kelly Roshto was the organizer and fearless leader. Members of both our congregations and friends from the toy department of the VNA were on hand to help. So much time was put into helping to unpack, organize, price, sell and clean up the items. We also had bakers who brought tasty treats to sell. Many thanks to all who contributed!



Congregational Life and Care continued...

Fellowship Hour

Please consider volunteering to host a coffee hour. You can do so yourself or by partnering with a deacon or other members. You can also donate money to be used to provide some delicious goodies for the morning. If you wish to donate, please place an envelop in the offering plate or send a check to either church and mark the donation "Fellowship Hour."



Our Fellowship Hours are thoroughly appreciated by everyone.

If you wish to host Fellowship Hour for Sundays at First Presbyterian Church of Stirling please speak with 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 (MVP).



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 October newsletter is September 19, 2023.

Submissions can be sent to Rev. Muntzel at

StefanieMinFaith@gmail.com.

The Messenger & Stirling Stuff

SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER



Sunflower Faith

Searching the sky
Until the day is done,
Nature's disciples
Follow the sun.
Let their faces be
Our example.
When our day has begun,
Eyes



First Presbyterian Church of Stirling

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

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel, Pastor
StefanieMinfaith@gmail.com
Tuesday, Thursday @ Meyersville
Wednesday, Friday @ First PC Stirling
Office Hours: 10am-2pm

Jan Somers, Church Secretary
office@meyersvillechurch.com
MPC Church Office: 908-647-0390
fpcschurchsecretary@gmail.com
FPC Church Office: 908-647-1033



Meyersville Presbyterian Church

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

