

January 2024 NEWSLETTER**Meyersville Presbyterian Church and The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling***LONG HILL NJ PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES PARTNERING TOGETHER***Pastor's Note**

As we enter into 2024, I wish to extend my sincere hopes and prayers for all who read this ... for good health for you and your loved ones; for your sense of gratitude and joy to expand and grow; and for your faith and trust in God to deepen and flourish. I also look to the coming year and my heart is filled with a prayer for peace to take root throughout our globe; a prayer for our nation to have a renewed sense of working for the common good; and for people of goodwill to share the blessings of our communities with everyone.

I also lift my prayers for our two congregations. I am blessed to be in ministry with you. God has put a wonderful opportunity before you. As mainline churches continue to decline, you do not have to face the struggle alone. You, The First presbyterian Church of Stirling and Meyersville Presbyterian Church, have taken brave steps to share resources—sharing staff, worshiping together, and addressing mission jointly. I am excited to learn what we can accomplish if we continue to embrace and build this partnership

I look to the future with confidence, because I know the grace and goodness of God abounds. May you too know this in the depths of your being. Wishing you a healthy, happy, happy New Year!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

JANUARY 16TH AT 6:00 PM, FPCS'S SESSION MEETING

JANUARY 17TH FPCS'S ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

JANUARY 28TH—FPCS'S ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (AT FPCS BUILDING)

JANUARY 24TH AT 6:30PM, MPC'S SESSION MEETING

JANUARY 31ST ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

FEBRUARY 11TH MPC'S ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

WORSHIP

January Worship

We will worship at **Meyersville Presbyterian Church** the first 3 Sundays of January. On the last Sunday of the month (January 28th) the 10 am service will switch to 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.

Both our congregation's Session (leadership boards) have discussed that it is meaningful to have Advent and Christmas Eve services in both sanctuaries. But holding two services on Christmas Eve is not sustainable given our separate and even joint congregational size.

This December 2023 worship was held at the sanctuary in Meyersville, with the exception of the 4th Advent service on Sunday morning at 10 am in Stirling. The evening Christmas Eve service took place at Meyersville Presbyterian Church. The decision has been made by both Sessions to have Advent services and Christmas Eve at the First Presbyterian Church of Stirling, next December. We will adjust our worship calendar by holding services at Meyersville again in the month of January in 2024. This will reset the monthly worship pattern so that worship will take place at Meyersville in odd months and at First Presbyterian Church of Stirling at even month in 2024.

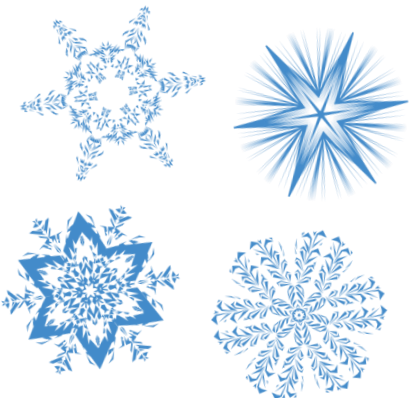
Our congregations have embraced that we are two congregation who worship together. This is a healthy and resource saving choice for both our churches. Therefore, regardless of what building a worship service is held in, every service is a time of worship for both the congregations. Sharing services has been a blessing for both congregations.

MISSION

SHARED MISSION OF THE MONTH

Our two small congregations have been so generous in their giving over the past year. Here are the ministries you supported in 2023.

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>MISSION</u>
January	Presbytery Disaster Assistance (PDA)
February	Souper Bowl of Caring - Twelve Baskets Food Pantry
March	One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)
April	Bridges Outreach Lunches
May	NJ Battered Women
June	Village 2 Village
July	Angel Tree - Christmas in July
August	Bridges Outreach Donations for organization
September	Church World Service (CWS) Blankets
October	Heifer International
November	Twelve Baskets Food Pantry
December	Family Promise of Morris County



MISSION OF THE MONTH



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. As violence escalates in and around Israel/Palestine, PDA is providing humanitarian assistance through partners on the ground and through ACT Alliance.

PDA has approved solidarity grants and will continue supporting our partners providing humanitarian assistance. Our response efforts will encompass a wide array of vital humanitarian interventions, including but not limited to medical supplies, shelter, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), food and non-food items and delivering crucial psychosocial support to individuals.

Support the PDA this month, please mark your check and envelope with **PDA**.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Prayer Concerns

Please prayer for peace in our world and for our members, family and friends.

Special prayers for those who are fighting cold, flu, RSV, sinus infections, Covid and other ailments this season. May healing and peace also come to those fighting seasonal depression and those with recent deaths in their family.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please let Rev. Muntzel know if someone you requested prayers for should be removed. Send names to be added to our lists to Rev. Muntzel's email, StefanieMinfaith@gmail.com.

BIBLE STUDY

Interested in an **evening Bible study** during the week? Please sign-up for Bible study on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 6pm. In January the dates are Thursday the 11th and 25th.

Would you prefer a **weekday Bible Study** on the 1st and 3rd weeks of the month on Tuesdays?

Please call and leave a message at either church office or email Rev. Muntzel (StefanieMinfaith@gmail.com) by January 9th. Your input will help determine if one or both of these times and dates will be offered.

DEACONS CORNER

Deacon's of both congregations will meet together on Sunday January 7th, after coffee hour at Meyersville Presbyterian Church.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF STIRLING UPDATES

Annual Congregational Meeting – January 28th

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling's Session has called a meeting of the congregation following morning worship on Sunday, January 28th, at the First Presbyterian Church of Stirling. This is also your chance to consider how you might contribute your time and talents to our shared ministry and mission.

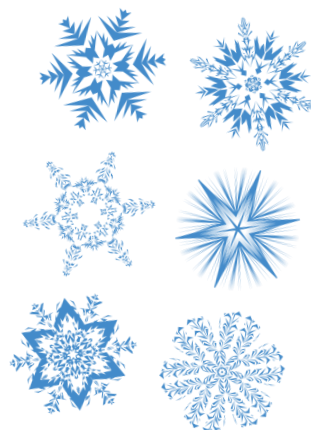
Annual Reports – Due January 17th

Reminder: Annual reports for all church committees/groups are due to the church office by no later than January 16th so they can be assembled and distributed in time for the Annual Congregational Meeting scheduled for January 28th. If you need a copy of the 2020 report, please contact Linda in the church office (908-647-1033).

MEYERSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH UPDATES

Nominating Committee

Our MPC Congregational Nominating Committee will soon begin working on the slate of new church officers to be presented for approval at our Annual Congregational Meeting on February 11th. This Committee will be considering candidates to serve in leadership roles. If you would like to suggest yourself or another person as a candidate for these offices in our church, please speak with Doris Mertz, committee chair.



Annual Congregational Meeting, February 11th

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, February 11th, 2024 after worship at the First Presbyterian Church of Stirling. . It's important for all active members to attend as you will hear reports from all the committees and boards, and it is the time to elect new church officers for 2024. This is also your chance to consider how you might contribute your time and talents to our shared ministry and mission.

A word of thanks from our Pastor...

I want to extend my thanks to everyone who was so involved in making this season so special— to deacons, leaders and elders who put in time and effort to make our buildings and worship beautiful for Advent and Christmas.

I also want to acknowledge the kind gifts —cookies and sweets and cards and more— given to me and my family by members of both congregations.

JANUARY 2024 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	New Year's Day					
7 @MPC 10 am Worship Service 11 am Fellowship 11:15 am Deacons	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 @MPC 10 am Worship Service 11 am Fellowship 11:30 am Worship Committee	15 Martin Luther King Day	16 @ FPC 6:00pm FPC Session	17 10 am MOMS Group @ FPC 7 pm Property Committee (zoom)	18	19	20
21 @MPC 10 am Worship Service 11 am Fellowship	22	23	24 @ MPC 6:30Pm MPC Session	25	26	27
28 @ FPCS 10 am Worship Service 11:15 am Congregational Meeting	29	30	31	<div> <p>OFFICE MANAGERS OFFICE HOURS: Tues., Wed., Fri.: 10am –1pm @ FPC Thursday: 10am-1pm @ MPC</p> <p>PASTORS OFFICE HOURS: Tues. and Thurs. 11am-3pm @ MPC Wed. and Fri. 11 am –3pm @ FPC Mon.– Pastor's Day Off Pastor's emergency cell: 973 722 2304</p> </div>		



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 February newsletter is January 23rd.

Submissions can be sent to Rev. Muntzel.

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel, Pastor StefanieMinfaith@gmail.com

Office email for Meyersville Presbyterian Church: office@meyersvillechurch.com,

Office email for The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling. fpcchurchsecretary@gmail.com

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