

THE MESSENGER

The Newsletter of

MEYERSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

223 Hickory Tavern Road at the Circle in Meyersville

Gillette, NJ 07933-1038

The Rev. Barbara F. Aspinall, Pastor



908-647-0390

secretaryMPC@aol.com

FEBRUARY 2016

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

and

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY LUNCH



Our church's Annual Congregational Meeting and Souper Bowl Sunday Lunch will be on Sunday, February 7, after worship. It is important for all active members to attend to hear reports from the committees and boards of the church. We will be electing new officers for 2016 and voting on the Session's recommendations for the terms of the Pastor's call. This is also a chance to make suggestions and changes regarding the life and ministry of our church.

After the meeting, we will enjoy a **Souper Bowl Sunday Lunch**. The Mission Committee is asking for a donation of \$5 per person (\$20 max per family) which will benefit the Interfaith Food Pantry. These funds will be used to buy fresh produce which will be distributed to those who come to the Food Pantry. Fresh produce is difficult to come by on a very low food budget and we will be helping to provide a healthier diet to the Pantry patrons. If you can bring a pot of soup or a salad to share for our Sunday lunch, please speak with Loura Zijdel. We are also looking for non-perishable food for the Food Pantry.





email: baspinall223@aol.com
February 2016



Dear Church Family,

I don't think Lent is high on the list of popular seasons. Who likes to think about sin? Who likes to be reminded of their shortcomings? It might be kind of nice to think of Lent as a spiritual check-up – a chance to go through the motions: deep breath in and out, a bright light in the eyes, a prick in the arm for a blood test, a reminder to get a colonoscopy and done for another year. No need to think about it again until then. Maybe a spiritual check up would sound something like “I see you made it to worship on half the Sundays of the year, bonus for Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday; a little behind on the pledge, but not bad. Serve on a committee? Check. Said your prayers? Check. Keep going to choir, try to read your Bible a little more, and remember next year it will be your turn to be a deacon again.” Done, and out the door.

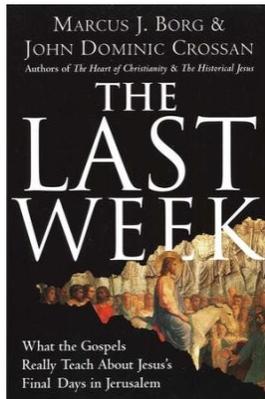
Psalm 51, which we usually read together on Ash Wednesday, reflects a much more radical understanding of the state of a human soul. It reflects anguish over sin, a desire to not just have a quick check-up, but maybe a heart transplant, to be truly washed clean, delivered, restored, changed. I think this is the hard thing about Lent. We don't want to consider the necessity of being changed or restored or delivered. A check-up would easier.

I have however, another way to think about this. It is called Good News. Instead of focusing on our own culpability for the things – mostly petty, but not nice – that lie on our hearts, we could focus on the enormity, the wonder, the power of God's grace, and on learning to trust the love of God to wash, change, restore us. As someone I know said, “I am washed, and though I may still be in the spin cycle, yet shall I dry.” God's love is steadfast and forever.

Yours in Christ,

Barbara





Three Church Lenten Soup and Study

This year's study is: *The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach about Jesus' Final Days in Jerusalem*. We will be using a book of the same title by Marcus Borg and John Dominick Crossan, which delves into the last week in Jesus' life, using the Gospel of Mark. (Participants do not have to purchase the book, but feel free to do so if you'd like to get into the topic in more depth.)

We will meet for four Sundays, from 5-7 pm, rotating churches and leaders. Each host church will provide a soup supper (soup, bread, beverage and dessert) and child care.

Feb 21 - Host: Meyersville - Leader: Rev. Tom Peters

Feb 28 - Host: FPC Stirling - Leader: Heather Harris-Galgoci

Mar 6 - Host: FPC Stirling - Leader: Rev. Barbara Aspinall

Mar 13 - Host: Trinity United Church - Leader: Rev. Tom Peters

We share in a soup supper at 5 pm, followed by our study. We end by 7pm. All are invited to come - and feel free to bring friends!

Also, be sure to come to the first session because there will be a DRAWING for a copy of the book being used for the series! There will be FOUR winners - so your odds are pretty good!

- * First Presbyterian Church of Stirling, 158 Central Avenue, Stirling, 07980 908-647-1033, www.fpcstirling.org
- * Trinity United Church, 118 King George Road, Warren, 07059, 732-469-5044, www.trinityunitedchurch.org
- * Meyersville Presbyterian Church, 223 Hickory Tavern Road, Gillette, 07933 908-647-0390, www.meyersvillechurch.com

Many Thanks to Snow Angels!!

After our giant snowstorm on Saturday, January 23rd, it was hard to imagine getting into our building anytime soon. Although we had to cancel the worship service on Sunday, the 24th, thanks to several church members and friends, we were plowed out by Tuesday morning. Our heartfelt thanks to Werner Milchraum, Ruud Zijdel, Robert Kielblock and church friends, Ryan and Art Brown.





Star Wars Movie Night Friday, February 5th at 6:15 pm At First Presbyterian, Stirling

In light of the new Star Wars movie, *The Force Awakens*, we decided to go back to the one that started it all: *Star Wars: A New Hope* that came out in 1977. This will be a fun evening of a supper of soup and sandwiches and nostalgic movie watching. We will also have a very brief discussion of the mythological idea of “The Hero’s Journey.”

We will be meeting at FPC. The supper will be provided but a donation to cover the cost of the supper will be gratefully accepted. Desserts will be welcome also. Do join us!

Thanks to Outgoing Church Officers

Our deepest thanks and appreciation go to our church officers who have completed one, three or six year terms of office on the Session or the Board of Deacons. These folks have been dedicated to the ministry of Christ in Meyersville, using God’s gifts of intelligence, imagination and love. Their energy and devotion have enabled and served the worship and work and fellowship life of our congregation.

thank
you!

Many thanks!

From the Session: Marion Barker, Loura Zijdel

From the Board of Deacons: James Thorn, Ruud Zijdel

Results of Stewardship Pledge Campaign

Once again, our church family has pledged its support for the continuing life and ministry of Meyersville Church. Our financial secretary, Dan Gallagher, has reported that with those who have pledged and those who reliably contribute regularly, we have a total commitment of \$52,000 for 2016. This accounts for a little over a third of our 2016 budgeted income. The rest of our budget is supported by our fund raiser events, the use of our manse and church building and the removal of cash from our investments.



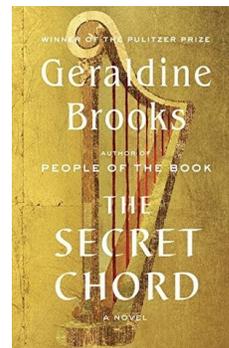
Ash Wednesday Service February 10th, 7:30 pm

We will be beginning the season of Lent with an Ash Wednesday service at First Presbyterian Church in Stirling. The lectionary Scripture readings for the day are: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17; II Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21.

Ash Wednesday is an opportunity to pause to remember and assess our relationship to God and one another. Ash Wednesday is a chance to acknowledge the opportunities we missed for being and doing good and to remember that God is always with us and forgiveness is always available.

Meyersville Church Book Club Tuesday, February 23 at 7:15 p.m.

The Meyersville Church Book Club will meet on Tuesday, February 23 to talk about a new book of historical fiction about King David called *The Secret Chord* by Geraldine Brooks. Library copies of the book are available in the church office. From the publisher:



Peeling away the myth to bring the Old Testament's King David to life in Second Iron Age Israel, Brooks traces the arc of his journey from obscurity to fame, from shepherd to soldier, from hero to traitor, from beloved king to murderous despot and into his remorseful and diminished dotage.

The Secret Chord provides new context for some of the best-known episodes of David's life while also focusing on others, even more remarkable and emotionally intense, that have been neglected. We see David through the eyes of those who love him or fear him—from the prophet Natan, voice of his conscience, to his wives Mikhal, Avigail, and Batsheva, and finally to Solomon, the late-born son who redeems his Lear-like old age. Brooks has an uncanny ability to hear and transform characters from history, and this beautifully written, unvarnished saga of faith, desire, family, ambition, betrayal, and power will enthrall her many fans.



February Mission: Interfaith Food Pantry

The Interfaith Food Pantry in Morristown provides groceries for families to take home to cook for themselves. From the Interfaith Food Pantry website:

Established in 1994, the Interfaith Food Pantry was formed when a group from local houses of worship decided to address the growing issue of hunger by consolidating their food assistance programs.

There was a growing awareness that there were many families, especially senior citizens, who needed assistance in securing food. The group decided to consolidate their programs and work together out of one central distribution center in Morristown. The Interfaith Food Pantry is a non-denominational, non-profit organization helping families make ends meet by supplementing their monthly groceries in times of need.

The Pantry is currently distributing more than 5 tons of food to 300 families each week! The Pantry's clients are primarily senior citizens living on fixed incomes and low-income working families in Morris County. Groceries are provided to anyone from Morris County in need who has appropriate facilities to cook the food given. Our current clients include senior citizens, disabled individuals, low-income wage earners, unemployed workers and families in crisis. Each family visits the Pantry every two weeks where they shop off the Pantry shelves from a given grocery list, selecting what they need for their families.

Current needs are:

Peanut Butter	Brown and white rice (1 and 2 pound bags)
Parmalat (shelf stable 32oz size)	Pasta / Whole wheat pasta
Dry milk (individual packets)	Spaghetti / Tomato Sauce /
Cereal, Oatmeal and Breakfast Items	Mac 'n Cheese
Dry Beans or Canned	Side Dishes
Pork and Beans	Tea
Canned Fruit (low sugar or lite-syrup)	Quart-size re-sealable plastic bags
Canned meats, fish and meals	
Hearty Soups, Low Salt Soups	

These items or other non-perishables may be brought to our Souper Bowl Sunday lunch or to Fellowship Hall throughout the month of February.

Local Food Bank

We do have a local community food bank housed at St. Vincent's Church in Stirling. It serves local families and some folks from neighboring towns. Our Session has committed to providing one much desired item for the food bank: canned mixed fruit, also sometimes labeled "fruit cocktail," preferably the kind in its own juice and not the syrup. Please plan to pick up a couple of cans each month so we can help families with food needs. There is a box in Fellowship Hall for our collection.



Coffee Hour Hosts Needed!

We sure could use a few new coffee hour hosts! There are many helpers and information available if you haven't done it before. Please sign up on bulletin board.

Computer Classes Continuing

Computer classes taught by Ruud Zijdel and friends, continue on Saturdays at 10:00 am. This is a great opportunity to catch up to the world around you by learning basic word processing, how to use the Internet, and how to store and display photographs. Come join the group! The last class for this session of classes is on February 20.



Free Gentle Yoga Class

Our member, Rosanne McGraw, a certified yoga teacher for 15 years, has been teaching a free gentle yoga class in our Parlor on Tuesdays from 9-10 AM. We are lucky to have such an experienced teacher whose special gift is adapting the various poses for individual needs. We will not be sitting or lying on the floor, so just bring yourself in comfortable clothes. Please invite your friends along.

This class will be appropriate for all, particularly those who may not be very flexible. Injuries will be accommodated. Yoga is relaxing as well as good for general health, so come give it a try.

Call or email Rosanne with any questions or concerns.

908 508-1435, rosanne.mcgraw@gmail.com.

Church Officers

On February 7th, at our congregational meeting, we will be electing new church officers. The expected configuration of officers will then be the following:

Session

Class of 2017 Doris Mertz, Sandra Seymour, Laura Minaian

Class of 2018 Barbara Grillo, Rosanne McGraw, Robert Kielblock

Class of 2019 Douglas Smith, Ruud Zijdel

Board of Deacons

Class of 2017 Karen Leski, Kelly Roshto, Margaret Arnold

Class of 2018 Gail Duffe, Lisa Kielblock, Carol Boyle

Class of 2019 Loura Zijdel, Julia Minaian, Jaci Crisall

Financial Secretary Daniel Gallagher

Audit Committee Tyson Mertz, John Arnold

Almost Spring Rummage & Pancake Breakfast, March 19, 9am-5pm

Coming soon is our Almost Spring Rummage Sale and Pancake Buffet. You may bring items to Fellowship Hall at the church starting Sunday February 28. Clothing, household items, books are welcome, but please do not bring upholstered furniture or large sports equipment or computer printers. The last day to bring your treasures is Sunday, March 15. Please let your neighbors and friends know that we have begun collecting. You might even offer to pick their stuff up to bring to the church!

We are also in need of volunteers to help out on the day of the sale. Please contact Kelly (626-0511) or kellyroshto@hotmail.com.



Bible Study of the Old Testament Continues Sundays at 11:15 a.m.

On Sundays, resuming on after the worship service, we are continuing with our study of the Old Testament. The group meets in the Parlor for approximately an hour. We are moving along with the prophets now. Come hear about Isaiah and Jeremiah and the fall of the Northern Kingdom. How did God speak to God's people through the prophets?

WE PRAY FOR:

Sandy and Carolyn Asinall and their 3 sons
Ballard Family, friends of the Hilf family
George Barker, Marion Barker's brother
Marilyn Barker, Marion Barker's sister-in-law
Margaret Bauknight, friend of Lynne Hilf
Edith Belansky, friend of Steve Boyle
Carns Family, aunt of Lynne Hilf
Florence Campbell, Laura Minaian's aunt
Bubba Carns, uncle of Lynne Hilf
Clark Carson, husband of Claudia
Claudia Carson, former member
Joanne Coker, Lynne Hilf's mother
Ellen Dreyer, sister-in-law of Barbara Grillo
Betty Garrett, friend of Lynne Hilf
Maggie Givens, friend of Doris Mertz
Eleanor Gormley, relative of Barbara Grillo
Betty Lembrich, church member
Nancy Livingston, family friend of Lynne Hilf
Joan McCloskey, church member
Jason McGinn, son-in-law of Barbara Grillo
Tyler McGuire, cousin of Michele Urbanski
Quaid Mobus, friend of Roberta Keller
Levona Page, Lynne Hilf's mother's friend
Adrienne Schmitt, Deborah Schmitt's mother
Beth Shaw, Kielblock cousin
Garland Smith, Joanne Smith's brother
Theresa Soeth, Marcie Skrobacz's aunt
Mary Stapperfenne, Jean's daughter-in-law
Johnny Urbanski, Michele's nephew
Myles Urbanski, Michele's son
Robert and Elva Wenz, Jean Stapperfenne's sister & brother-in-law
Charlene Wilverding, friend of Kelly Roshto



Pastoral Visits

If there are those who would like a pastoral visit, or know of a member who is in the hospital, please let Barbara Aspinall or Paulette Irlander in the church office know.

February 2016



Lectionary Readings

February 7– Transfiguration of the Lord

Exod. 34:29-35; Ps. 99; 2 Cor. 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

February 14- 1st Sunday in Lent

Deut. 26:1-11; Ps. 91:1-2, 9-16; Rom. 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

February 21 - 2nd Sunday in Lent

Gen 15:1-12, 17-18; Ps. 27; Phil 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

February 28 - 3rd Sunday in Lent

Isa. 55:1-9; Ps. 63:1-8; 1 Cor. 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

NEWS FROM OUR CONGREGATION

Happy Birthday

- February 2 Joshua Leski
- February 9 Jean Stapperfenne
- February 14 Rosemarie Kielblock
- February 17 Bill McCoy
- February 20 Jake and Brad Gallagher
- February 24 Rosanne McGraw



Happy Anniversary

- February 5 Carol and Richard Skidmore

February 7, 2016 COMMUNION

Preparing Elements: Kelly Roshto

Elders Serving Communion:

Class of 2016: Marion Barker, Doug Smith, Laura Zijdel

February Call to Worship

- Feb. 7 Art England
- Feb. 14 Marion Barker
- Feb. 21 Laura Minaian
- Feb. 28 Sue Hahn

Special Mission

Interfaith Food Pantry