



Sunday School resumes Sunday, January 6, 2019 (Epiphany)

Off for Winter Break

Kingdom Kids, Crossing Zone, Flock, Family Dinner and Wave are on Winter Break starting Dec. 19. Last events of 2018 were the Christmas parties. See you next year!

- ♦ Flock resumes January 16.
- ♦ Wave resumes January 20.
- ♦ Kingdom Kids, Crossing Zone and Family Dinner resume January 30.

2019 Youth Trips

High School Lake Champion Trip (Grades 9-12)
January 11-13, 2019

Spaces are still available for the middle school trip to beautiful Lake Champion, NY. Build memories, pull back from everyday life and reconnect with God.

Middle School Lake Champion Trip (Grades 7-8)
March 15-17, 2019 (\$200)

Kingdom Kids: Grades K-3
Wednesdays 4:45-5:45 pm
Crossing Zone: Grades 4-6
Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 pm
Flock: Grades 7-8
Wednesdays 6:30-8 pm
Wave: Grades 9-12
Sundays 6:30-8:30 pm

Memory Verse
Live a life that is worthy of the calling He has graciously extended to you. Be humble. Be gentle. Be patient. Tolerate one another in an atmosphere thick with love.
- Ephesians 4: 1-2

For Families and Children:
Holly Ascianto
856-235-1688, x116
hascianto@fpcmoorestown.org

For Families and Youth:
Dan Wonneberger
856-745-6596 (cell/text)
dwnonneberger@fpcmoorestown.org

Moorestown Ministerium Day of Service

Monday, January 21, 2019

9-11 am: Trinity Episcopal Church

Registration Required by 1/15: (856) 235-0811 with Deacon Leslie Mazzacano

"Happy Birthday Party" - bring items for birthday boxes (cake mix, frosting, candles, plates, napkins, small gift) to assemble and bless birthday boxes to donate to Catholic Charities; enjoy birthday cake for Dr. King!

1:15-2:15: Our Lady of Good Counsel

Registration Required by 1/15: (856) 235-7136 with Dr. Linda Dix

Heritage House: "Rejoice and Be Glad!", children brings cans of food as service, activities include preparing toiletry kits (items are supplied) and craft. Then make and enjoy ice cream sundaes!

Worship Bags

- ♦ See Holly each Sunday to pick up a **Worship Bag**. Children are invited to use the doodle book to complete a weekly mission connected to the service. Parents: please send a picture of the completed mission to Holly's cell at 609-273-7465 to post by Room 8. *Please return the bags each week to the worship bag tree.* **4th-6th Grades** — See Holly for your own book and pencil to complete your mission as well!

Don't Miss the Epiphany Concert ~ Sunday, January 6, 7:30 p.m. (see page 2)
Adult Choir, Choristers and Chapel Choir



First Presbyterian Church
101 Bridgeboro Road
Moorestown, NJ 08057
www.fpcmoorestown.org
(856) 235-1688

Rev. Stuart Spencer
Pastor/Head of Staff
sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org

Kelly LePenske
Pastoral Associate
klepenske@fpcmoorestown.org

WORSHIP HOURS

- 8:30 am Traditional
- 11:00 am Contemporary
9:45-10:45 am
Education Hour

**Connect. Devote.
Serve. Worship.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL January 6

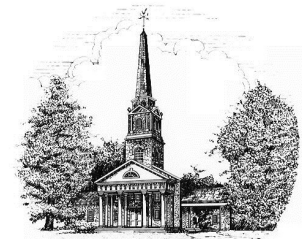
Nursery: Preschool Wing
3-4 Years: Room 15
Grades K-1: Room 13
Grades 2-3: Room 10-11
Grades 4: Room 7
Grades 5-6: Room 3-4
CREDO: 3rd Floor
Middle School: 3rd Floor

January 13 (9:45 am)
Sit Down With Session
Learn about The Ways!

January 20 (9:45 am)
Adult Education starts

"Connections" is published weekly for Sunday worship. Please submit information by noon Tuesdays to:
Editor Jan Martin
jmartin@fpcmoorestown.org
856-235-1688, Ext. 133

Are you receiving our **Friday e-blast** with announcements, FPC news and upcoming events? If not, contact the [church office](#).



Connections

First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

January 6-13, 2019

GRACE NOTES

"Creating an Atmosphere Thick With Love"

As a prisoner of the Lord, I urge you: Live a life that is worthy of the calling He has graciously extended to you. Be humble. Be gentle. Be patient. Tolerate one another in an atmosphere thick with love.
- Ephesians 4: 1-2, The Voice

IN MAY OF 2018 when I began my ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown I had three words in mind: *Ready, Aim, Fire*. "Ready" refers to culture. I wanted to understand the atmosphere of this church to help shape a strong and healthy culture. "Aim" means the work of creating strategy and vision. "Fire" is when we take action on our strategy. Just as we wisely aim before we fire, or implement our strategy; we ready ourselves before aiming.

There is a proverb from the business world and attributed to Peter Drucker that "*culture eats strategy for breakfast*." Whatever plans you may have and no matter how gifted your leaders may be, the culture of an organization both dominates what is done and dictates the future.

Not long after I started my ministry I met a Moorestown resident and businessman named David Friedman, president of High Performing Culture and author of *Culture by Design*. David now works with corporations and non-profits to help create healthy cultures. He has kindly and generously offered his services, free of charge, to our church.

To me, the work of culture-creating is deeply rooted in the teachings of the New Testament. There are some 60 commands that include the words "one another" found throughout the New Testament. These are commands to form a culture that honors the Lord Jesus Christ and creates an atmosphere where fellowship and mission can flourish.

Throughout this fall, I have been working closely with our staff and Session and received input from our Deacons and Trustees on this matter of our culture. We've created 25 culture statements or "ways" that identify and describe the kind of church we want to be.

Here's the first "way" with some scriptural references:

BE THIRD. God is first, others are second, and you're third. Don't just think about your own interests, but be interested in others.^a Don't think less of yourself; just think of yourself less and others more.^b

^a*Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.*
(Philippians 2: 4)

^b*"And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you."*
(John 13: 14, 15)

Be sure to be in worship on Sunday, January 13th. At both services, we will share our 25 culture or way statements. I will preach on the biblical and theological basis for this exciting work. You will receive a copy of all our FPCM ways with information about how to learn more as we start to live these principles together.

May the Holy Spirit create an atmosphere thick with love here.

Stuart Spencer, Pastor

Sunday, January 13th ~ Rollout of our Ways Statements!



Ken Peacock Memorial Lecture Series “A Praying Life” Seminar

Friday, Jan. 25 (6:30-9:15 pm)
Saturday, Jan. 26 (8:30 am-Noon)
Based on the book *A Praying Life*, and sponsored by Adult Ministries, the Ken Peacock Memorial Lecture Series offers a two-day seminar “A Praying Life.” How do I focus when I’m distracted with so much to do? How do I pray longer than five minutes? Cost is free; contributions are appreciated. Continental breakfast Saturday morning. Child-care available upon request.

REGISTER on seeJesus.net/events by **January 14th** to ensure enough materials. For information contact coordinator Joyce Peacock at jkepac@comcast.net or (609) 923-4135.

A Praying Life
a *see Jesus* seminar

Help Wanted

We are looking for a Property Supervisor. Full Time/Benefits available. Maintenance skill set and management experience required. If interested apply to Earl Gage at (856) 235-1688, Ext. 106 or egage@fpcmoorestown.org by January 21, 2019.

Christmas Clean-Up?

As you sort through and put away Christmas decorations, please remember that the Rummage Sale holiday shop would love to have any items that are new or gently used. Rummage Sale is March 13-14, 2019 (we cannot store items before the sale).

**New
2019
Year**

Preschool Registration Open House

Step by Step Christian Preschool invites families to an Open House on **January 22, 2019** from 6:30-8:00 pm to register for 2018-19 classes! Tour spacious classrooms, meet the experienced staff and share refreshments. Parents may register their child(ren) that evening. **Early registration for church members and current enrollees begins the week of January 7.** Open registration for all others will begin on January 22. Classes begin in September 2018 and are available for 2 ½ year olds, 3-year olds and 4-year olds. Step by Step Christian Preschool offers flexible options for morning or afternoon sessions for 2, 3, 4 or 5 days a week, and is open to members of the church and residents of the surrounding communities. Contact Amy Delgado at adelgado@fpcmoorestown.org.

TONIGHT: 2019 Epiphany Concert

Adult and Chapel Choirs as well as the Choristers will sing carols, songs, and anthems of the season at the 2019 Epiphany Concert, **Sunday, January 6 (7:30 pm)**. Please advise the church office if you need childcare. Come, enjoy the sounds of all the Choirs and end the season with inspiration and triumph! A free will offering will be received.



Please pray daily for our Haiti Mission Trip travelers (January 5-12, 2019). A special day-by-day devotional guide is in today's bulletins.

“The Ways” Workshops (see front cover)

Elders, Deacons, Trustees, College of Elders and Deacons, Small Group Leaders, Sunday School Teachers and Church staff will meet for a breakfast workshop for the unveiling of our new Ways concepts on **Saturday, Jan. 12** from 8:30-11:30 am. Drafted by our Pastor, Staff, Session and church leaders and married with scripture, these principles will guide us as we define the culture of First Presbyterian Church. Please RSVP by January 8 to Jan Martin at (856) 235-1688, Ext. 133; jmartin@fpcmoorestown.org

SAVE THE DATE! There will be 4 Ways Training sessions for members of the congregation as we discover the process of defining Who We Are. Choose the one that best fits your schedule:

- ⇒ Wed. Jan. 16 (6-9 pm)
- ⇒ Sat. Jan. 19 (8:30-11:30 am)
- ⇒ Wed. Jan. 23 (6-9 pm)
- ⇒ Sat. Feb. 2 (8:30-11:30 am)



January

Pastoral Care

Stuart Spencer will be away until January 8 on vacation. For pastoral care, please contact [Kelly LePens-ke](mailto:Kelly.LePens@fpcmoorestown.org) or [Jan Martin](mailto:Jan.Martin@fpcmoorestown.org) in the church office at (856) 235-1688.

Sit Down With Session Sunday, Jan. 13 ~ 9:45-10:45 am Fellowship Hall

Who is God calling you to be in 2019? Come and discover “the ways” God is calling FPC into action as we begin a new year together. Bring your curiosity and questions as we imagine how we can say Yes to God in new and exciting ways!

Blanket Sunday

Blanket Sunday, sponsored by the Deacons and Church World Service, is coming Sunday, January 27. Your contributions enable CWS to help families around the world recover from disasters and displacement, while helping to rebuild viable, sustainable lives and communities.

Yum! PW Soup Luncheon Monday, January 28 9:30 am, Fellowship Hall

Jane Murphy will speak about the lesson “God With Us When We’re Powerless” and how it applies to the story of two trains, Friendship and Gratitude. There will be an opportunity to review & approve the Bylaws (see PW board by the kitchen), then the hot and *delicious* soups will be ready!



January Break

There will be no Lunch Bunch or Friday Nighters for January.

2019 Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 10, 2019
Reports due to Jan in the church office by January 18, 2019

Stay Tuned!

Commons Lobby Renovation
Rescheduled for February

News from the Pews

- ♦ The Knitting Network is collecting **mittens and hats** for needy children at the Mitten Tree in the Commons Lobby.
- ♦ Reserve special dates for **2019 worship flowers** to honor loved ones. Contact Rumi Sinunu at rts319@gmail.com.
- ♦ **Sign up for safe and secure automatic withdrawal today**
- ♦ The church is transitioning to a **new eblast system**, so if you’re NOT receiving the Friday eblast let [Jan Martin](mailto:Jan.Martin@fpcmoorestown.org) in the office know.

- ♦ Please contact the church office to pass along concerns or **pastoral care** issues for those in our church family. We are grateful for these personal connections! If you know someone who should receive a Letter of Well Wishing, sanctuary flowers, call or visit, contact [Alison Mackey](mailto:Alison.Mackey@fpcmoorestown.org) at (856) 235-1688, Ext. 113.

- ♦ Next **Session meeting** will be January 22, 2019 with the Board of Deacons.

Church Security

This Sunday, Jan. 6th, the Church has contracted with KD National Force Security to begin providing security on Sundays for our services. As many of you are aware there have been ongoing concerns about the safety of our facility and parishioners, which is an issue that all schools, churches and other public gathering areas contend with in today’s environment. Church leadership has long wrestled with the dilemma of creating a safe space for worship and keeping our integrity as a welcoming church family. In other words, locking doors and keeping people out is not our culture. This security company employs retired certified police officers. They have an impressive resume working for a number of area churches and school districts, including the Tabernacle in Ocean City. They are trained to be silent and vigilant; they will not bring attention to themselves. Administration will be evaluating these security measures for a trial period. Please feel free to introduce yourself to the team; they will be in plainclothes. For questions contact [Earl Gage](mailto:Earl.Gage@fpcmoorestown.org) at (856) 235-1688, Ext. 106.

Children’s Ministries Teachers Meeting Sunday, January 27 10:30 a.m. ~ Room 6

Bagel Pick Up

The Membership Committee is looking for an individual to pick up bagels at Manhattan Bagels once a month. Please call [Joyce Wenzke](mailto:Joyce.Wenzke@fpcmoorestown.org) at (609) 410-4118.

