



Embrace the discipline of Lent with One Great Hour of Sharing Fish Banks

Fish Banks

On Palm Sunday, it is the tradition at First Presbyterian Church to receive the [One Great Hour of Sharing](#) offering. A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing allows us to share God’s love with our neighbors in need around the world. Fish-shaped boxes were distributed to children in Sunday School. Children can bring the boxes with them on Palm Sunday (April 14) to be received during the Children’s Moment in all services. Adults: Please look for special OGHS offering envelopes in the pews in the coming weeks. You may also give online at [www.fpcmoorestown.org](http://www.fpcmoorestown.org).

Youth News

- ♦ Flock (Grades 7-8) WILL be meeting on March 13 and will be Rummage Sale Shopping!
- ♦ [Great Escape Trip \(\\$500\)](#) — Middle school trip for an awesome week of worship, engaging speakers, new friends and a college campus! Scholarships available.
- ♦ Check out the new memory verse today!

**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**  
*Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.”*

- Romans 12: 9

For Families and Children:  
**Holly Ascitutto**  
856-235-1688, x116  
[hascitutto@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:hascitutto@fpcmoorestown.org)

For Families and Youth:  
**Dan Wonneberger**  
856-745-6596 (cell/text)  
[dwonneberger@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:dwonneberger@fpcmoorestown.org)

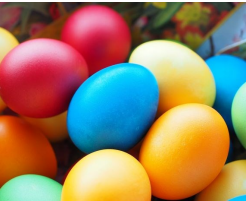
Wednesday Kids Events Canceled March 13

There will be no Kingdom Kids, Family Dinner or Crossing Zone on **Wednesday, March 13** due to the Rummage Sale. Flock WILL be meeting and will be Rummage Sale Shopping!



Children’s Easter Celebration is Coming!

**SAVE THE DATE:** Children’s Easter Celebration is **Saturday, April 13** (10:30-11:30 am). Weather permitting, we will be outside. Celebrate the joy of Easter with crafts, fun and of course, Easter Eggs! There is no charge; canned food for the food pantry as an entrance will be welcomed. Rain or shine.  
*Don’t forget your basket!*



FPCM Way of the Week (March 10-17)

**#9: PRAY FIRST AND PRAY AGAIN.** Ask *first* for God’s guidance and blessing in everything you do. Through prayer, ask for wisdom and for God’s will to be done. Pray for others as well, that God’s love and blessing would be revealed to them in good times and in bad.

Scriptures: Proverbs 3: 5, 6; Matthew 6: 10; Ephesians 6: 18

PRAY FIRST  
AND PRAY  
AGAIN

**First Presbyterian Church**  
101 Bridgeboro Road  
Moorestown, NJ 08057  
[www.fpcmoorestown.org](http://www.fpcmoorestown.org)  
(856) 235-1688

**Rev. Stuart Spencer**  
Pastor/Head of Staff  
[sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org)

**Kelly LePenske**  
Pastoral Associate  
[klepenske@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto: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  
March 10

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

Adult Education  
3 C’S Class: Lounge  
Lenten Study: Room 8  
(full)

“Connections” is published weekly for Sunday worship. Please submit information by **noon Tuesdays** to:

Editor Jan Martin  
[jmartin@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto: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

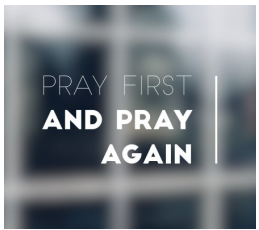


First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

March 10-17, 2019

GRACE NOTES

FPCM Way of the Week (March 10-17)



**#9: PRAY FIRST AND PRAY AGAIN.** Ask *first* for God’s guidance and blessing in everything you do. Through prayer, ask for wisdom and for God’s will to be done. Pray for others as well, that God’s love and blessing would be revealed to them in good times and in bad.

Scriptures: Proverbs 3: 5, 6; Matthew 6: 10; Ephesians 6: 18

When we look at different scenes from Jesus’ life, from his public ministry involving great crowds to his quieter moments of solitude, there’s a common denominator beneath them all—prayer. No matter who or what he’s facing, Jesus prays constantly and without hesitation. Jesus prays during his baptism. He prays through the night before choosing his twelve apostles. He prays in ordinary villages over ordinary things, like five loaves of bread and two fish that ultimately feed 5,000 people. And he prays in extraordinary moments of crisis, too. Jesus seeks God before he is betrayed and arrested thanks to Judas Iscariot, and Jesus prays while he endures the torture of crucifixion.

In all four Gospel accounts, Jesus can be found praying and teaching others, including us, about turning to God in every situation. We especially see this in Luke, where prayer is discussed more than the other gospels. The first time we witness Jesus praying in Luke is during his baptism in chapter 3, which sets the stage for chapter 4—Jesus’ forty days in the wilderness. Despite the devil doing his best to drive a relational wedge between Jesus and God, the devil fails every time! So why does the devil lack influence? The answer is as simple as it is profound: prayer. Jesus seeks God’s wisdom so regularly that, like a professional musician who’s developed perfect pitch through years of practice, Jesus can discern the right notes from those that are flat and misleading. Jesus can distinguish God’s voice of truth and life from the devil’s subtle tones of deceit and death.

As you cross the threshold of Lent and enter your own forty days of reflection, it might be worth asking: Whose voice are you listening to these days? Can you hear God’s voice of truth and hope for your life? “We are unlikely to be tempted in exactly the same way as Jesus was,” notes theologian N.T. Wright, “but every Christian will be tested at the points which matter most in her or his life and vocation. It is a central part of Christian vocation to learn to recognize the voices that whisper attractive lies, to distinguish them from the voice of God.”

Maybe it’s been a while since you’ve prayed. Maybe it feels too vulnerable in this season of life. Or maybe it’s all you’ve been doing lately. Either way, Jesus throws us a life ring to cling to on our best days and our worst. Jesus’ last words before his death offer us a prayer to repeat over and over again: “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” (Luke 23:46)

— Kelly LePenske, Pastoral Associate

Please complete your [Service Pledge](#) today



### Lenten Study Begins This Week

Our Lenten study groups begin this week and are reading the book "Everybody Always" by author Bob Goff. If you haven't signed up there is still limited availability. We have nearly 150 individuals participating! Please contact Kelly LePenske at (856) 235-1688, Ext. 101. Books can be purchased for \$10 in the church office. INFO: Contact [Kelly LePenske](#) or [Becca Neindorff](#).

### Meal Train Help Welcome!

The Deacons are looking for help with a Meal Train providing meals for the Draszcz family during Liz's current cancer treatment. Please call Deacon Jean Donahue at (856) 571-0308 or [jeaned\\_7465@hotmail.com](mailto:jeaned_7465@hotmail.com) if you can help. Or sign up ONLINE at [www.fpcmoorestown.org](http://www.fpcmoorestown.org) and click on EVENTS to link to the Draszcz page. Thank you!



### Service Pledges 2019

During both services on **Sunday, March 3**, Service Sunday, members completed their Service Pledge Form, indicating ways in which they wish to connect and serve for 2019. Please complete yours today. Simply print off the [Service Pledge Form](#) and turn into the church office, or — even easier — [complete your form ONLINE!](#)

There are hundreds of ways to be involved at FPC ~ what ministries mean the most to you? Continue serving in a current capacity or think about trying something new. There are countless ways the church can utilize your skills.

### Deacons Food Drive

The Deacons need your help to stock the Ministerium Food Pantry with food and toiletries. The Food Pantry is serving more and more families each month. Paper grocery bags with a list of needed items attached will be available at church on Sunday, March 10.

Use the list to buy one or two or more items and **return by Sunday, March 24**. Please just leave the bags in the Commons Lobby in or by the food cart. Any questions call Deacon Helen Dominy at (410) 924-6948 or [rmdsrillic@aol.com](mailto:rmdsrillic@aol.com).



5th SUNDAY  
Sunday, March 31  
*Combined Worship 9:30 a.m.*  
Fellowship Miller Commons

### Rummage Sale Drop off Starts March 10

Drop for the [102nd Rummage Sale](#) will begin **Sunday, March 10** in the Commons Lobby to raise money for PW benevolences. Miller Commons, Fellowship Hall, Lounge, Commons Lobby, Hayes Room and Room 8 will all be used for the sale; meetings may be moved that week.

⇒ **Sale Hours: Wednesday, March 13 (6-9 pm)**  
⇒ **Thursday, March 14 (10 am-noon Bag Sale)**

### Hoagie Sale

On Wednesday, **March 13**, the Missions team will be selling hoagies from 11:30 am-9:00 pm at the Rummage Sale. **Pre-order yours today!** Orders may be left on the Missionwares door or via email to Linda Jagiela at [missions@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:missions@fpcmoorestown.org).

### Concert for Organ and Violin Sunday, March 17 7:30 p.m. ~ Sanctuary

### Preschool Fundraiser

Step by Step Christian Preschool presents "Parents Night Out" Fundraiser on **Friday, March 22** at 7:00 p.m. at the Moorestown Community House. Tickets are \$27 each and guests enjoy heavy appetizers, soft drinks, coffee, tea and BYOB; 2 door prize entries and 1 sheet of raffle tickets PLUS an amazing Silent Auction! Proceeds will fund the upgrade and beautification of our preschool's playground, which the children use every day. Purchase tickets at Step by Step Preschool or contact Amy Delgado at (856) 235-7105. Checks payable to First Presbyterian Church.



### Lost and Found

PLEASE LOOK THROUGH the Lost and Found items in the Commons Lobby and see if any are yours. Items unclaimed will be donated to the Rummage Sale.

**No more envelopes!**  
**SIGN UP for safe and secure automatic withdrawal at [www.fpcmoorestown.org](http://www.fpcmoorestown.org) and click GIVE**

### Spring Inquirers Class

Yesterday **March 9**, the Inquirers Class met to discuss questions of membership, our relationship with Jesus Christ, what it means to be a disciple, and a faithful member of this congregation. Those wishing to join will meet with Session **TO-DAY in Room 3-4** after the Contemporary service. New members will be welcomed during worship on **Sunday, March 17**. Please greet this delightful group of friends!

### Order Easter Flowers

Orders for Easter Flowers will be taken **March 17, 24 and 31** to decorate our worship spaces with the symbol of renewal. [Order forms](#) will be available in *Connections* and on the church website [www.fpcmoorestown.org](http://www.fpcmoorestown.org). Flowers are \$12 each and assorted spring varieties. For questions contact [Rachel Scarborough](#) in the office at 856-235-1688, Ext. 124.

### Maundy Thursday

A poignant Maundy Thursday worship and communion service will be held in the sanctuary on **Thursday, April 18** at 7:30 pm, commemorating the Last Supper Jesus had with his disciples.

### Lent, Holy Week and Easter Worship Schedule

- \* Ash Wednesday (March 6), 7:00 pm, Chris Palmer
- \* Maundy Thursday (April 18), 7:30 pm
- \* NEW: Good Friday 7:30 pm (April 19)
- \* Easter Sunrise 6:30 am (Cemetery)
- \* Easter 8:30 am-Contemporary
- \* Easter 9:30 am-Traditional
- \* Easter 11:00 am-Traditional
- \* No Adult Ed or Sunday School on Palm Sunday or Easter



### Krispy Kreme Donut Fundraiser for Missions Easter Sunday, April 21

### "City Called Heaven" Sunday, April 14 (7 pm) FPC Sanctuary

The First Presbyterian Church Adult Choir, Chapel Choir and the West Jersey Chamber Chorale and Orchestra present a "City Called Heaven" concert featuring music of the journey to and life in Heaven. Choral masterpieces from the baroque era, African-American Spirituals, American Folk Music and Modern music from England will be showcased. Tickets are available at the door: \$24/\$18 Seniors. All children and parents of Chapel Choir members, FREE. For information and tickets visit: [www.wjcms.org](http://www.wjcms.org).

### Rich Meyers Retires

Recently Property team member Rich Meyers announced his retirement. We are deeply grateful to Rich for his 12 years of work on the property team as well as his faithfulness to God and to our building's ministry. Please wish Rich and Nancy well when you see them! If you wish to drop Rich a note or card with your well wishes you may leave them in the church office ATTN: Earl Gage.



### Welcome Rachel

We are very happy to announce that **Rachel Scarborough**, who has been working as a temp in the office since September, has accepted the part-time administrative assistant position. Rachel will support the Family Ministry and Youth areas, as well as special office projects. Welcome aboard, Rachel! You may reach her at Ext. 124 or [rscarborough@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:rscarborough@fpcmoorestown.org).



### Stephen Ministry

Our church is one of 75,000 Christian churches world wide to have a Stephen Ministry program. This is a one-on-one support to supplement what ordained ministers can do for a congregation. Training involves 50 hours of classes and readings as well as practical situations. In April we will joyfully commission four Stephen ministers. If you need a Stephen minister call Jan Amos at 856-234-0924 or the FPCM church office.