

FAMILY MINISTRY

Kids: The 'bait' is over for 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 both services.

Youth News

♦ [Great Escape Trip \(\\$500\)](#) —

Middle school trip for an awesome week of worship, engaging speakers, new friends and a college campus! Scholarships available. July 22-27, 2019



♦ **NOTICE:** Please check the church calendar for Spring Recess event cancellations (April 19-28).

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 Ascianto

856-235-1688, x116

hascianto@fpcmoorestown.org

For Families and Youth:

Dan Wonneberger

856-745-6596 (cell/text)

dwonneberger@fpcmoorestown.org

Enjoy Wednesday Night Family Dinner

⇒ **April 3 Menu: Macaroni and Cheese, Chicken Fingers, Mixed Vegetables, Salad**

From 6-7 pm, Wednesday Family Dinner is a weekly meeting place where we can share a meal with our church family as all ages come together to share in church activities. Or just come for dinner. Donation \$5.00 each or \$20.00 per family. Thanks for helping us cover our costs. **Family Dinner ends April 10th.**



Children's Easter Celebration

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! Event is FREE; canned food for the food pantry as an entrance will be welcomed. Rain or shine. *Don't forget your basket!* **NOTE:** We welcome **candy donations** from the congregation of individually wrapped items that are peanut free and can fit within a plastic Easter egg. Drop off in the church office anytime!

FPCM Way of the Week (March 31-April 7)

#12: OWN OUR CHURCH. The work of the church isn't defined by pastors and staff alone; it comes from each member actively participating in the life of Jesus Christ. Claim ownership of FPCM's mission and programs. Each is an expression of how God is working among us! Support others. Be informed. Volunteer for a new role. Live like you're the church — because you are! Scriptures: *1 Corinthians 12: 27; 1 Corinthians 12: 26*

OWN OUR CHURCH

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 (non-5th Sundays)

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

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



SUNDAY SCHOOL ADULT EDUC.

March 31, 2019

There is no Sunday School or Adult Education on March 31, a 5th Sunday. **Worship is combined at 9:30 am. (sanctuary).**

"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

March 31-April 7, 2019

GRACE NOTES

FPCM Way of the Week (March 31-April 7)



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"All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it. (1 Corinthians 12: 27)

^bThis makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad. (1 Corinthians 12: 26)

I have a friend who managed oil refineries for his career. One thing he heard often on the floor of the refineries were statements with the word "they". "They need to fix that door. They need to be better organized. They need to work harder." My friend made buttons and distributed them to all of his employees. The buttons simply said, "I am they."

Our Way of the Week is a chance for you to put on this button. Stop waiting for they. You are they and you will make this church stronger, healthier, and better when you do. If someone needs to be loved and comfortable, do it. If someone could use a back of freshly made chocolate chip cookies, bake them. If someone needs a ride somewhere, give it. If our giving needs a boost, write the check. Don't wait for they any longer. You are they.

In a wonderful book on leadership called [Lessons in Leadership](#) Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sack, former chief rabbi in England, Sack says of leadership but also for us, what it means to own our church. "A leader [or a member of FPCM] is one who takes responsibility. Leadership is born when we become active rather than passive, when we do not wait for someone else to act because perhaps there is no one else—at least not here, not now. When bad things happen, some avert their eyes. Some wait for others to act. Some blame others for failing to act. Some simply complain. But there are people who say, 'If something is wrong, let me be among the first to put it right.; They are leaders [and members of FPCM]. They are the ones who make a difference in their lifetimes. They are the ones who make ours a better world."

Stuart Spencer, Pastor

Upcoming Concert: "City Called Heaven"
Sunday, April 14 (Palm Sunday) ~ 7:30 p.m.

**Property Team News**

- ♦ **WANTED: Part-time property staffer**, approx. 20 hours per week; mechanical skill set. Please contact Earl Gage at (856) 235-1688, Ext. 106.
- ♦ **Truck Donation:** The church is looking for a used heavy duty pick-up truck to be used on the property. A donation or minimal cost is appreciated. Please reach out Earl Gage at (856) 235-1688, Ext. 106 or egage@fpcmoorestown.org.
- ♦ **NEW HIRE:** We are pleased to announce the addition of **Fausto de la Cruz** to the property team as a part-time staffer. Fausto will be assisting with evening and weekend security and facility usage/room set up.
- ♦ **Leaving a room?** Please take care to turn the lights OFF and make sure the room is how you found it — or better. :)

NEW: Preschool Parents Small Group
Wednesdays 9:00 am
Contact [Kelly LePenske](#) or [Tamara Trzeciak](#)

Welcome New Members!

This March, we welcomed 12 new members of our church family and welcome several today who were not in worship on March 17. *Please introduce yourself to these new friends and welcome them.* New members are wearing red ribbons on their nametags.

Volunteers Needed for Easter Food Baskets

The Deacons are looking for volunteers to help with pickup (7:45am), packing (8:15am) and delivery (9:00am) of the Easter Food Baskets on **Saturday, April 13**. Sign-up sheets are posted at the Welcome Center table and in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Helen Dominy at 856-235-5594 or rmdsrillc@aol.com

Personnel Note

Karen Grate concluded her employment with us on Wednesday, March 27. We appreciate all of her efforts over the last eleven years and as a congregation we express our gratitude and thanks for her service. We pray for God's blessing and peace for Karen and her family. Notes of appreciation for Karen may be written or dropped off in the Commons Lobby or brought to the church office.

Couples Retreat

"The Heart of Marriage"

May 17-19, 2019

Hosts: Stuart and Leslie Spencer

The Inn of Cape May ~ Cape May, New Jersey
 \$395 per couple, includes 2 nights lodging, meals

Registration Due April 25, 2019

NEW: Media Support Group

Author Joanne Sumerson, PhD, a professor at St. Joe's University, Independent Research Psychologist, and Past President of the Society for Media Psychology and Technology, is offering a free support group called "Healing from Embarrassing Media Situations" for high school aged teens. There are ten spots available. No charge, open to the community and all our church members. Group meets Tuesdays, April 30-June 11 from 6:30-8:00 pm in Room 8. To sign up contact Joanne Sumerson at (267) 240-2943 or joannebrod-ersumerson@gmail.com. Below is the link to an electronic form.

<https://forms.gle/XLBAAHvri5MREfFb6>

SPRING PRAYER RETREAT

"Invitation to Retreat"

May 28-31, 2019 (\$275)

Holy Cross Monastery

West Park, NY

Hosted by Stuart Spencer

Register online at

www.fpcmoorestown.org

BY APRIL 7

Pick up a brochure at church

May 11 Pedal for Promise
www.urbanpromiseusa.org/pedal

Service Pledges 2019

This month members have completed their Service Pledge Form, indicating ways they wish to serve the LORD for 2019. Please complete yours today. Either print off the [Service Pledge Form](#) and turn into the church office, or [complete your form ONLINE!](#) Visit our church website and click on EVENTS.

**Lent, Holy Week and Easter Worship Schedule**

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

Easter Flower Orders Due TODAY

Orders are due March 31 for Easter spring flowers to decorate our worship spaces—an annual symbol of renewal. Order forms are in *Connections* and online at www.fpcmoorestown.org. Flowers are \$12 each and will be assorted spring varieties. Contact [Rachel Scarborough](#) in the office at 856-235-1688, Ext. 124.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Please look for special One Great Hour of Sharing offering envelopes in the pews in the coming weeks. You may also give online at www.fpcmoorestown.org. Parents: See page 4 for children's information about the 'fish banks'.

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. Hear Caitlyn Posey preach the Word.

Good Friday Tenebrae

An evening Good Friday Tenebrae service will be held in our sanctuary on Friday, April 19 at 7:30 pm. *Tenebrae* comes from the Latin meaning "darkness" and uses diminishing light by extinguishing candles to symbolize the events from Palm Sunday to Jesus' burial. The service concludes in darkness and silence. Chris Palmer leads.

April Lunch Bunch
Thursday, April 4 (12 noon)
Guest Speaker: John Coles,
Local Moorestown Historian

Friday Nighters

Friday, April 5 at 6:30 p.m.

"The Tribal Realities of the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape"

Refusing to leave their ancestral homeland, family clans remained in South Jersey when other Native American tribes were forced west. Learn the history of the tribe as it continues to unfold today. Enjoy Appetizers, Fruit and Dessert. Please RSVP with [Barbara Lewis](#) at (609) 518-7420 by **Wed. April 3rd**. No charge for this program, just bring a dish to pass!

Successful Food Drive!

THANK YOU to everyone who donated food for the spring Food Drive coordinated by the Deacons. Deacons Helen Dominy, Adrienne Barr and Susan Horn took **over 60 bags of food** to the Ministerium Food Pantry! What a difference you made in these people's lives.

ALPHA Begins April 24
Introductory Meeting/Dinner
Contact [Jim Cole](#)
Series Begins May 1 (6:30pm)

Staff Profile: Jan Martin

Jan Martin has been on staff since 2014 and served in a variety of roles. Originally hired as a temp, she became an Administrative Assistant and in 2015, Office Manager and Assistant to the Pastor. Duties include overseeing church communications, *Connections*, eblasts, church database, Session materials, church calendar and facility, admin staff and support for Pastor Spencer. The office is a busy place and she loves her job! Jan and her family moved to NJ in 2014 from Illinois where she worked as a Church Administrator. For over 15 years she worked in collegiate sports communications at several universities, the Big Ten Conference office, and as a USA Press Officer for the 1996 Summer and 2002 Winter Olympic Games. Jan and her husband Lance have two children, Kyle and Kelsey, and live in Marlton.

**Stephen Ministry**

This week we're reminded that the church comes from each member participating in the life of Jesus Christ. Stephen Ministers work with pastors and staff to provide distinctively Christian care. If you need someone to listen, ask for a Stephen minister. Call Jan Amos at 856-234-0924 or the church office (856) 235-1688. Stephen Ministry Training Class Commissioning will be Sunday, April 28.

Attention Knitters

The Knitting Network will meet **Saturday, April 6** from 10-12 noon in Room 2. All are warmly welcomed to attend!