



Youth Choir Concert — Sunday, May 19 (7:00 p.m.)



PARENTS: Watch for emails with details to sign up, sign waivers and provide donations

- ⇒ Kingdom Kids (K-3rd) will be **May 1** at Pump It Up
- ⇒ Wave (grades 9-12) ends on Sunday, **May 5**.
- ⇒ Crossing Zone (grades 4-6) will be **May 8** at Sky Zone.
- ⇒ Flock (7-8) end of the year party is Wednesday, **May 8**.

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

And they sang a new song with these words: “You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals and open it. For you were slaughtered, and your blood has ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.” (Revelation 5:9)

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

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

Important Family Ministry Dates

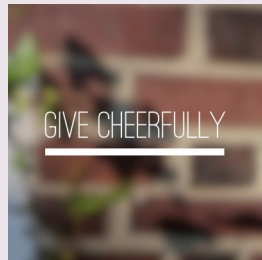


Congratulations! Grades 2-3 and Grade 4 classes tied as winners for the One Great Hour of Sharing fish box offering. Great job kids! Winning classes earned a pizza party with Pastor Stuart and Mrs. Spencer TODAY (**Sunday, April 28**) in Room 3-4 after the 11:00 a.m. contemporary worship. Our Sunday School students raised \$340 for One Great Hour of Sharing this year!

- ◆ **Sunday School ends on May 19.** Teacher Appreciation will be at both services.

SAVE THE DATE: Vacation Bible School!
ROAR! Life is Wild. God is good.
June 24-28 from 9:00 a.m.—12 noon.

Registration is NOW OPEN! Visit <https://fpcmoorestown.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/223798>



FPCM Way of the Week (April 28-May 5)
#16: GIVE CHEERFULLY. Rejoice, you get to give! Think of giving as a privilege rather than an obligation, a joy instead of a burden. As you consider all that’s been entrusted to you—time, abilities and money—ask, “How is God calling me to share what I’ve been given?”

Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 9: 7; Luke 6: 38



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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.**

**EDUCATION HOUR
April 28, 2019**
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
NEW: Church in Blue:
Room 8 (April 28, May 5)
Stuart Strachan: Room 6
April 28: The Power of Story:
From Jesus’ Parables to Modern Neuroscience

“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

First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown April 28-May 5, 2019

GRACE NOTES
FPCM Way of the Week (April 28-May 5, 2019)



#16: GIVE CHEERFULLY. Rejoice, you get to give! Think of giving as a privilege rather than an obligation, a joy instead of a burden. As you consider all that’s been entrusted to you—time, abilities and money—ask, “How is God calling me to share what I’ve been given?”

Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 9: 7; Luke 6: 38

Let me share a wonderful quote from a favorite author of mine, Henri Nouwen. He was a Roman Catholic priest who loved Jesus Christ with a remarkable passion. Nouwen died in the mid-1990’s and left a legacy through his writing that continues to speak to Christians to this day. Here’s what Henri Nouwen once wrote about giving and what happens in our lives when we give: *“We become beautiful people when we give whatever we can give: a smile, a handshake, a kiss, an embrace, a word of love, a present, a part of our life . . . all of our life. It is sad that, in our highly competitive and greedy world, we have lost touch with the joy of giving. We often live as if our happiness depended on having. But I don’t know anyone who is really happy because of what he or she has. True joy, happiness and inner peace come from giving of ourselves to others. A happy life is a life for others.”* (From *Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World*)

The people I admire most are givers. Givers are so often full of life and joy. I’m thinking of a man I knew who died quite suddenly this past week. This man was a capital g Giver. Years ago, he and his wife joined the church where I served as pastor. One of the questions I like to ask participants in an Inquirer’s Class is: what’s your favorite ice cream? In that class a number of people, including me, mentioned a Ben and Jerry’s flavor when sharing their answer. A week after the class, a package arrived on my front door. It was a large box containing dry ice and 6 pints of Ben and Jerry’s ice cream, including 2 of my favorite flavor (Chubby Hubby, if you’re wondering). There was no name or return address on the package. There was a phone number and when I called it, my friend answered. I thanked him and we laughed over the fun of it all.

If there’s one quality I’d pray God give us a congregation, it would be the gift of generosity. Perhaps more than any other virtue, lavish, joy-infused giving best reflects the heart of God. For when God loves, God gives. **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only, begotten Son.” (John 3:16)**

Stuart Spencer, Pastor

**TODAY: Stephen Ministry Commissioning
Karen Arsenault, James Clinton, Philip Jagiela, Jane Murphy**

Sunday, May 5 9:45-10:45 am

Sit Down with Session

Come fill out a survey about your preferences for fall worship times, Adult Education and Sunday School

God's Blessings and Farewell

The last Sunday for our Princeton Theological Seminary interns **Caitlyn Posey** and **Chris Palmer** will be May 5. We will have a cake reception after the 11:00 am contemporary service. There will be a basket available for cards and well wishes, bring one from home or fill a card out here in the Commons Lobby.

Summer Worship Starts Memorial Day Weekend

Summer worship hours will begin Sunday, May 26 and run through Labor Day weekend. Session will approve the worship times at its April 30 meeting.

Welcome (back) Rev. Strachan

Today's guest preacher, Rev. Stuart Strachan Jr., is an ordained Presbyterian Pastor. His primary passion is equipping the saints for the ministry of the church (Eph. 4). He loves preaching, teaching, and helping churches cast vision for what it means to follow Jesus in the 21st Century. He has served churches in a variety of capacities in California, Colorado, Pennsylvania, and Washington. Rev. Strachan served as an FPC Seminary Intern in 2008. Stuart is married to Colleen and is the father of Jack and Emma. In his free time, Stu enjoys golf, reading a good book, and watching baseball.

SAVE THE DATE!
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Sunday, May 19 (7:00 p.m.)

IHN Here April 28-May 5; Volunteers Needed!

The week after Easter, our church is hosting families in transition with Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN). Volunteers are needed April 28-May 5 to help with evening dinners, sleepovers, driving and visiting with our guests. New volunteers eagerly welcome!! Contact Deacon Chris Catanella at christine.catanella@gmail.com.

Adult Ed April 28-May 5 "Church in Blue: Faith from Augustine to Coltrane"

This two-week class explores the way that certain theological ideas informed (and continue to inform) the composition of Western music over the ages. It briefly explores how music has given voice to faith over Christian history, and it asks how these conversations might be relevant to our faith lives today. Led by Chris Palmer.

Couples Retreat

YES, there's still room!

Sign up TODAY!

"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

SIGN UP: <https://fpcmoorestown.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/198319>

ALPHA Starts May 1

This 10-week series begins **May 1**. The course meets on Wednesday evenings and one weekend and consists of dinner at 6:00 pm followed by a DVD lesson and discussion. Designed for people who are new to the faith and want to understand Christian beliefs. Open to the public. Sign up online at www.fpcmoorestown.org or with Jim Cole at (856) 296-5732 or jamescole7@comcast.net.

**College of Elders & Deacons
May 28, 2019**

2019-20 Calendar Dates Needed

At its summer planning sessions, the staff will be reviewing Summer and 2019-2020 program year (Sept. 2019-June 2020). Committee chairs and coordinators are asked to please submit to Jan Martin all schedules and room requests for events, small groups, committee meetings, worship, rehearsals, activities and outside groups for 2019-20.

- ⇒ Tuesday, May 7 — Summer Planning (dates & room requests due by **May 1**)
- ⇒ Tuesday, June 4 — Annual Planning (dates & room requests due by **May 22**)

May 2, 2019
National Day of Prayer



April Session Meeting

Tuesday, April 30th ~ 7:00 p.m.

Report Deadline: Friday, April 26

NEW: Prayer Walk May 4

"You're Invited! May 4th come be a part of the River of Prayer, flowing from FPCM Room 3/4 beginning at 8:30 am with a light breakfast. From there at about 9:00 am, we'll cascade through the streets and neighborhoods of our town and congregation, praying for God's grace and guidance, Presence and power to spread throughout the community. Scripture guides will be available. Look for the map in the Commons Lobby! Please RSVP on FPC's website Coming Events. Contact: [Joyce Peacock](mailto:Joyce.Peacock@fpcmoorestown.org) 609-923-4135.

Alternative Gifts for Mother's and Father's Day

Consider giving an alternative gift this year to benefit scholarships for Nurses and Midwives to the MBF Hospital in Haiti. Special cards with art from the students at Urban Promise can be used to give your alternate gift. Visit the Missionwares store!

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

Officer Training Dates

Incoming Elders, Deacons and Trustees will have Officer Training on two Wednesdays, **May 8** and **May 15** from 6:30-8:00 pm in Room 8. Please attend both sessions. Examination by Session will be on Sunday, May 19 after the 11:00 am service, lunch included. To RSVP contact [Jan Martin](mailto:Jan.Martin@fpcmoorestown.org) at (856) 235-1688, Ext. 133.

Concerned for our Nation?

YOU are invited to join with others in the Lounge at 7:00 am **Thursday, May 2** for the National Day of Prayer. Pray alone or together with us, silently or add your voice; we encourage your participation. Look for the Prayer Guide "Love One Another" in the pews today.

Please join us!

Friday Nighters

Please join Friday Nighters for its last event of the season on **Friday, May 3** at 6:30 pm: "Civil War Nurses". Learn of the different paths by which these women entered nursing, some of whom only did so because they were caught up in the circumstances of war. Catered dinner - \$10 per person RSVP to Betty Schurmann (609) 315-7871 by Monday, April 29th

May Lunch Bunch

Thursday, May 2 at 12 noon; Program: "The Gratitude Train" presented by Jane Murphy. Learn about this little known expression of thanks from the people of France. Enjoy this special fellowship time. \$5.00/person please.

Preschool Registration

Classes begin in September 2019 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. Visit our website fpcmoorestown.org/step-by-step-preschool for more information!

Staff Profile: Martin Bass

Martin Bass, our Contemporary Worship Leader, is the son of a Methodist pastor, and grew up in a family of musicians. He started composing and performing in high school. He attended Westminster



Choir College, and has sung in Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and Kennedy Center. His solo music ministry has taken him across the U.S.

and around the world. Having two nationally released albums; 'Make Me Your Instrument' and 'Under Construction', Martin spent many years touring and writing. He then moved into worship leading and creative arts. Martin has written over 250 songs and two full length Christian musicals. His technical background includes IT, digital recording and sound engineering. His wife Christine Bass, an accomplished musician and music educator, plays keyboard and sings vocals in the worship service.

A member of the Prayer Committee is available in the Prayer Room between services for personal prayer

Stephen Ministry

Our new Stephen Ministers, commissioned today, are already cheerfully giving of their time and talents. If you need a Stephen Minister, call Doris Kahley at 609-261-8474 or the church office.

Haiti 2020

Save the date! January 4-11, 2020 we will again be heading to Haiti for a mission trip. Contact [Linda Jagiela](mailto:Linda.Jagiela@fpcmoorestown.org) at (267) 275-7582.

