

FAMILY MINISTRY

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

TEACH
encourage
INSTRUCT
MENTOR
PRAISE
influence
GUIDE
INSPIRE

Last Day of Sunday School is May 19

THANK YOU to all our Sunday School, youth and Adult Education teachers who selflessly gave of their time and talents this year. We will recognize our teachers with Teacher Appreciation during both worship services on May 19th.

Youth News

- ♦ **Session examination** of CREDO students, our 2019 confirmation class, will be held **Wed. May 22** from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Students will present their Statements of Faith and become members of First Presbyterian Church. They will be recognized in worship: **Sunday, June 2** (Youth Sunday).
- ♦ **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

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 Asciutto
856-235-1688, x116
hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org

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

SAVE THE DATE: Vacation Bible School ROAR! Life is Wild. God is good.

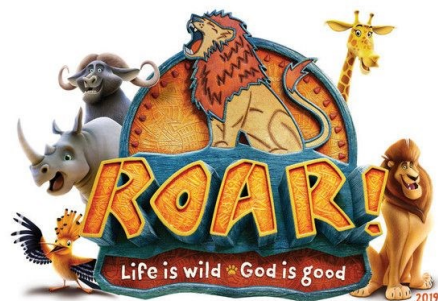
June 24-28
9:00 a.m.-12 noon each day

Who: Children entering Kindergarten through entering 6th grade (FALL 2019).
In signups please enter current grade.
Cost: \$20 per child (\$15 for second child)
When: REGISTRATION DEADLINE: June 16, 2019

NEW! VBS African Drum Contest! Build your own African Drum to be used as decoration at VBS. African Drums must be dropped off by 12:00 pm **June 16**. See complete details on flyers posted at church and on the FPC website. Open to the congregation and all children registered for VBS.

For more information contact: Holly Asciutto at 856-235-1688, Ext. 116 or email hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org.

TEENS and ADULTS: Interested in being a VBS volunteer? WE NEED YOU! Visit www.fpcmoorestown.org/kids



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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.**

EDUCATION HOUR

May 12, 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

"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

May 12-19, 2019

GRACE NOTES FPCM Way of the Week (May 12-19, 2019)



#18: ASK FOR HELP. Part of being a real and authentic member of the church is to acknowledge your weaknesses and to be willing to ask for God's help and the support of others. None of us can go it alone. Vulnerability is a sign of strength and a gift to others.

Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 12: 9; 1 Corinthians 15: 10)

A FEW WEEKS AGO, my small group discussed how we can better serve and better meet the needs of those around us. As we talked through the needs we see and the needs we know, it became increasingly obvious that people tend to hide their need pretty well. Sometimes, we even go so far as to turn away help that is offered.

Most of us are asked daily, "How are you?" and for most of us the answer is "Good." There is something about asking for help or showing need that doesn't tend to fit in with modern American culture.

As we talked, the story of Ruth and Naomi came to mind. After Naomi's husband dies, Naomi does her best to send Ruth away, but Ruth stays anyway. It is easy to want to react like Naomi does and push people away so we aren't a burden or a hindrance to their lives. It is easy to want to hide away our need and answer "Good." But in hiding our need and pushing away help, we also hide from grace.

The great joy of the Christian message is that from start to end, you are not in it alone. You are made by God, forgiven by God, saved by God, empowered by God, and will be resurrected by God. From the beginning to the end and all the way through, Christianity is about being helped. No one expects you to have it all together; no one expects you to have all the answers.

When we *Ask for Help*, the strength of the Church can shine and the power of God can be perfected in our weakness. *Asking for Help* isn't admitting defeat, it is inviting grace and power into your life.

Dan Wonneberger
Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Summer Hours Begin Sunday, May 26
9:00 a.m. Traditional ~ 10:30 am Contemporary

Youth Choir Concert

The Annual Youth Choir Concert, featuring Junior Choir, Choristers, and Chapel Choir will take place on **Sunday, May 19** at 7:00 pm.

Special about this annual event is that the young choirs are accompanied by a full instrumental compliment from West Jersey Chamber Music Society. Each choir sings a variety of anthems, all arranged for orchestral accompaniment. A span of styles from Baroque, through African-American Spirituals as well as music written within the past two years will be heard.

Singing in this context equips the next generation of church choir members to render major choral works with orchestra, maintaining the rightful place of great sacred choral literature – within the church! This concert is not ticketed – a free-will offering will be received. Child care provided upon request.



Step by Step
Preschool Fundraiser:
Thursday, May 16
5:00-8:00 p.m.

Chick Fil A Centerton Square
58 Centerton Road, Mt. Laurel
Mention that you are with Step by Step Preschool when you order!

Blood Drive Comes to FPC Commons

Celebrate life with your gift of blood! We will be holding our annual blood drive for the American Red Cross on **Friday, May 17** in Miller Commons from 1 - 6 pm. To sign up contact Debbie Heller at 856-273-6838 or email dheller374@comcast.net, or visit redcrossblood.org/give and enter "First Presbyterian Moorestown." YOU ARE APPRECIATED!

Have you taken the Worship Survey yet?

The Worship, Music Committee and Staff have put together a survey to query the congregation about the worship experience at First Presbyterian in order to cull data and preferences for fall worship. Hard copies were in *Connections* on May 5 and 12. Take the survey **online** too (preferred method) by going to the [Events](#) page on our website and click on Take The Survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DSDZWDJ>

ALPHA

This 10-week series began **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.

2019-20 Calendar Dates Due

At its June 4 planning retreat, First Presbyterian staff will be reviewing the 2019-2020 program year (Sept. 2019-June 2020). Committee chairs and event coordinators are asked to please submit to [Jan Martin](#) by **May 22**, all schedules and room requests for events, small groups, committee meetings, worship, rehearsals, activities and outside groups for 2019-20 so the year's calendar can be prepared for the meeting. Thank you!



Spring Gathering for Women of the Church

SAVE THE DATE:

All Women of the Church are invited to a Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women
Monday, June 17 ~ 6:30 pm
Fellowship Hall

Scrumptious appetizers and desserts followed by a program "Four Letter Words" by Rev. Dr. Deborah Brincivalli
Executive Presbyter, West Jersey Presbytery

Bring a Friend!

RSVP to mrsmurphyiii@gmail.com or on sign up sheets in the Commons Lobby.

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!

Officer Training Continues

Incoming Elders, Deacons and Trustees will conclude New Officer Training on **Wed. May 15** from 6:30-8:00 pm in Room 8. Examination by Session will be on **Sunday, May 19** after the 11:00 am service, lunch included. RSVP to [Jan Martin](#) at (856) 235-1688, Ext. 133. All incoming officers are asked to attend.

COED Dessert Meeting

The Council of Elders and Deacons (COED) will be meeting on **Thursday, May 23** from 7:00-8:30 pm.

This will be a Dessert Meeting. Special guest will be Dr. Shane Berg, Executive Vice President of Princeton Theological Seminary. Please RSVP to Jan Martin at (856) 235-1688, Ext. 133 by **May 20** with regrets/RSVPs.



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 AM or PM sessions for 2, 3, 4 or 5 days a week, and is open to members of the church and residents of surrounding communities. Visit our website fpcmoorestown.org/step-by-step-preschool!

It's Strawberry Festival! Friday, June 7 (6-9 pm)

It will be berry, berry good!
You'll want to Save the Date for the 62nd Annual Strawberry Festival, an evening packed with community spirit and LOTS of FUN! Proceeds benefit local mission work. Highlights include homemade cakes with fresh strawberries, Moorestown Community Band, Face Painter, Balloon artists, fun inflatables, food tent and more! Tickets just \$7; kids 3 & under FREE; bring the family!

Purchase tickets in the Church Office or from any Deacon, Elder or Trustee. NEW! Moorestown Hardware and Maurizio's Bistro are selling tickets too! And this just in: FPC members only can purchase tickets [ONLINE](#) from our church website (go to Events).

Cakes, cakes and more cakes!

Over 300 cakes are needed to serve the community. Any flavor and size cake (cupcakes too) are welcome. Please sign up so we have an idea of homemade cakes we will have the day of- signups are in Commons Lobby, the narthex and by the main kitchen. PLEASE PRE-CUT YOUR CAKE PRIOR TO DROP OFF IF NEEDED!

Volunteers needed!: YES, help is needed for ALL aspects of the Festival from strawberry hulling on Thursday, June 6th, serving cakes or ice cream and strawberries to helping kids on the inflatables. Want to help? Please SIGN UP in the lobby for available positions and time-slots! Open to those in high school or older; students: bring in Community Service forms to get credit!



Upcoming Dates

- ♦ **May 19:** Last day of Sunday School, Teacher Appreciation
- ♦ **May 26:** Summer Hours Begin; no Adult Education or Sunday School in the summer
- ♦ **May 26:** Installation and Ordination of Officers
- ♦ **June 2:** Youth Sunday, CREDO Confirmation class recognition, Graduate Recognition
- ♦ **June 9:** Pentecost (wear red)

Staff Profile: Earl Gage

Earl has been leading the Administrative team since 2013. His philosophy: Church administration must be God-centered and people-oriented. Earl's background as Clerk of the Board and Administrator for the County of Salem for over ten years, along with many years in the business world, has equipped him for his current role as a servant-leader. Born and raised in Salem, NJ, Earl and his wife, Randi, raised their four children in Salem and still reside there. Earl and Randi are now proud grandparents of four grandchildren. The family attends First Presbyterian Church of Salem where Earl is an Elder and member of the choir. Earl's service as a member of the Salem City Council (and a former mayor) demonstrates his love of his community.

