

FAMILY MINISTRY

JUNE 2: Youth Sunday, CREDO Recognition, Graduation Recognition

TEACH
encourage
INSTRUCT
MENTOR
PRAISE
influence
GUIDE
INSPIRE

Sunday School Concludes Program Year May 19

THANK YOU to all our Sunday School, youth and Adult Education teachers and small group leaders who selflessly gave of their time and talents this year. TODAY (May 19) we will duly recognize these individuals with Teacher Appreciation during both worship services.

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 Ascianto
856-235-1688, x116
hascianto@fpcmoorestown.org

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

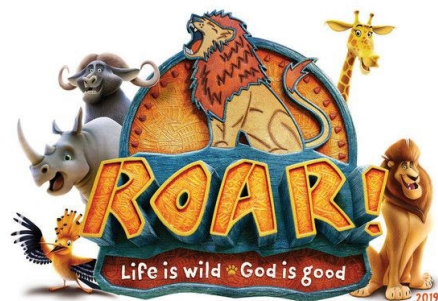


VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ROAR! Life is Wild. God is good.

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**

AT ROAR VBS, kids discover that even though life gets wild, *God is good*. Roar is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the activities that help faith flow into real life. For more information contact Holly Ascianto at 856-235-1688, Ext. 116 or email hascianto@fpcmoorestown.org.



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

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.

EDUCATION HOUR

May 19, 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 19-26, 2019

GRACE NOTES FPCM Way of the Week (May 19-26, 2019)



Way #19: Accept and Don't Cast Stones. God's love opens the doors of our church to all people. Just as Jesus did, welcome people as they are. It's not up to us to judge. Love unconditionally, and as Christ has received you, receive others.

Scriptures: 1 Timothy 2: 6-7; Luke 15: 1-2

YEARS AGO ON A sunny September day in east Los Angeles, I found myself standing in the middle of a noisy courtyard surrounded by teens eating lunch. It was my first day at San Marino High School as a volunteer Young Life leader. I was there to meet students, strike up conversations, and invite them to youth group. Driving to campus earlier that day, I had a game plan: Find parking. Walk onto campus like you know what you're doing. Be confident. I found parking, but anything resembling confidence had been lost somewhere along the 210 freeway. Who knew walking back onto a high school campus could bring back all the old fears like vulnerability, rejection and self-doubt.

Way #19 takes me back to my Young Life days when my heart and eyes were really opened to the relational nature of Jesus' ministry. Jesus loved spending time with messy people because he saw past the surface, far beyond our fear-based judgments and straight into the heart of humanity—our universal need to love and be loved. Love can only happen in relationship with Jesus and with other people. Or more specifically, through extravagant friendship.

"I came not to judge the world, but to save the world!," Jesus shouts in John 12. Watch!, Jesus is saying. Watch how extravagant friendship—love without judgment and expectation—can free you, transform you, enliven the church, our neighborhoods, the world! Watch how unconditional love can liberate humanity from its fearful, selfish nature! C.S. Lewis puts it another way: "Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy, like art, like the universe itself (for God did not need to create). It has no survival value; rather it is one of those things which give value to survival."

On my first day at San Marino High School, there was no difference between me and the hundreds of students that huddled in their lunchtime cliques. We all were hungry for acceptance and love and probably some Oreos, too. Which is when I heard eight memorable words from a freshman girl nearby: "You can sit with us if you want." So I did. They sounded like Jesus' words, because they were. Words of invitation, belonging and extravagant friendship.

Kelly LePenske

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

TONIGHT: Youth Choir Concert

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

Our 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. Styles range from Baroque to African-American Spirituals. 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 upon request.

June 9 is Pentecost (wear red)

2019-20 Calendar Dates Due May 22

At its June 4 planning retreat, staff will review the 2019-2020 program year (Sept. 2019-June 2020). Committee chairs and event leaders are asked to please submit to [Jan Martin](#) by **May 22**, all schedules and room requests for committee meetings, activities, small groups, worship, events, rehearsals, concerts & outside groups for 2019-20.

THANK YOU FROM THE SPENCERS: The Spencer Family is deeply grateful for the many expressions of affirmation and support at Stuart's one year anniversary as Pastor of FPCM. Thank you for the Letter of Well Wishing, the flowers, the photos and warm words of appreciation! We look forward to all that the Lord will do in and through us.

Last Day to Take the Worship Survey

We have received over 170 responses to the Worship Survey! If you have not submitted your comments, today (**May 19**) is the last day. Church leaders are polling the congregation about worship experiences in order to determine preferences for fall worship. Take the survey **online** from the [Events](#) page on our website and click on Take The Survey or the link below: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DSDZWDJ>

Doug Derry to be Installed as Presbytery Moderator

On Tuesday, June 18 FPC will host the Stated Meeting of the West Jersey Presbytery. Light refreshments will be served from 6-7 pm. The Worship meeting will begin at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary and will mark the Installation of our own Doug Derry as Moderator of the WJ Presbytery. Volunteers will be needed for logistical help. All are invited to celebrate this evening!

PURCHASE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL TICKETS ONLINE - FPCM MEMBERS ONLY:

Would you like to purchase your Strawberry Festival tickets ahead of time? Well now you can! Please click the REGISTER button on the SF page on our website and enter your member information. Your registration will allow for 1 ticket, click the PURCHASE ADDITIONAL TICKETS check box and select the number of additional tickets you wish to add to your order. Tickets will be at WILL CALL at the sign-in table when you arrive that evening.



Starts Sunday, May 26
9:00 a.m. Traditional
10:30 am Contemporary

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.

Officer Installation and Ordination

Incoming Elders, Deacons and Trustees will be examined by Session May 19 and installed and ordained on **Sunday, May 26**.

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 or jmartin@fpcmoorestown.org by **May 20** with regrets/RSVPs.

Alternative Gifts for 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 off the lobby.

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! Thanks to all who came out for our Thursday Chick Fil-A fundraisers!

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

It will be Strawberry-ful!

You and your friends and family are invited to the 62nd Annual Strawberry Festival, an evening packed with community spirit and LOTS of FUN! Proceeds benefit local mission work. There's something for everyone: homemade cakes with fresh strawberries, Moorestown Community Band, face painting, balloon artists, fun inflatables, food tent and more! Tickets just \$7; children 3 and under FREE. Purchase tickets in the Church Office or from any Deacon, Elder or Trustee. Members: purchase tickets on our website and on Sundays. NEW: Moorestown Hardware and Maurizio's Bistro are also selling tickets too!

Did you know ... 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 how many cakes we will have that day: signups are in Commons Lobby, the narthex and by the kitchen. PLEASE PRE-CUT YOUR CAKE PRIOR TO DROP OFF!

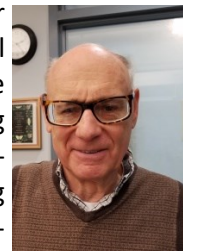
Volunteers needed! We are looking for help for all aspects of the festival from serving cakes or ice cream and strawberries to helping the kids on the inflatables to serving beverages during the festival! SIGN UP at the tables in the lobby for available positions and time-slots! Open to those in high school or older; bring in Community Service forms to get credit for your efforts. [A sign-up genius is also available.](#)

Strawberry Hullers: Its almost time to cut the strawberries! Thursday, June 6 at 3pm until they are all cut! Come for an hour or stay for a few. There are sign up sheets around the church. Bring your favorite small knife, a tray and a colander. Come ready to laugh and have fun! Pizza and soda will be served at 5pm! A sign-up genius is also available:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B45AEA62CA1F85-strawberry>

Staff Profile: Norman Vandergrift

Norm has been privileged to serve as our Accounting Manager since 2001. He handles donations and record keeping for parishioners and all church events. He processes incoming funds, payroll, invoices and tracking for all church departments, boards and committees. Norm supports the church administrator in the daily operations of our church, budgeting financial projects and committees. He serves as a resource to staff in financial matters. Norm's greatest joy is time spent with his wife, Linda, to whom he has been married for 37 years. They have many opportunities to reach out with the love of Christ to those in need in our communities. They have also served with the Red Cross for over 30 years. Linda and Norm's quiet times are spent in relaxation on the beach in Ocean City!



**It's a 5th Sunday
Sunday, June 30 (9:30 am)**