



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

### End of Year Events

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

- ⇒ Wave (grades 9-12) ends on Sunday, **May 5**.
- ⇒ Crossing Zone (grades 4-6) party **May 8** at Sky Zone.
- ⇒ Flock (7-8) end of the year party is Wednesday, **May 8**.

### Last Day of Sunday School is May 19

THANK YOU to all our Sunday School, youth and Adult Ed teachers! Teacher Appreciation will be at both 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 Ascitutto**  
856-235-1688, x116  
[hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org)

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

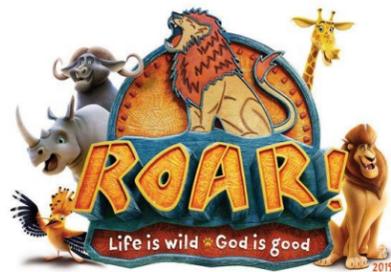
**Cost:** \$20 per child (\$15 for second child)

**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 Ascitutto at 856-235-1688, Ext. 116 or email [hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org)

TEENS: Interested in being a VBS volunteer? WE NEED YOU!



**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.**

### EDUCATION HOUR

#### May 5, 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

Church in Blue: Room 8  
Sit Down With Session (FH)  
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](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

May 5-12, 2019

## GRACE NOTES

### FPCM Way of the Week (May 5-12, 2019)



**#17: SHOW WHO YOU REALLY ARE.** Our church is for "real" people. Bring your true self, including your joys, your sorrows, your fears, your strengths, and your weaknesses. God loves you as you are. Don't hide your struggles, failures, or problems.

Scriptures: Roman 5: 6; John 3: 16

DO YOU DRESS UP FOR CHURCH? Many of you do and you do so out of respect for God and the House of God. I was raised by a father who's *always* worn a tie and jacket to church even on the hottest and stickiest days of August. He was raised by a father who did the same thing.

Times are different, of course. Fewer men wear suits and ties anywhere, let alone church. Our whole culture has gone informal. In a different and but harder way, Way 17, Show Who You Really Are, is a statement about how we come dressed to church. We are to come to church as we are emotionally, spiritually, and relationally. We don't cover our weakness, we let others know that we're not doing very well. We don't pretend that everything and everyone in our lives is perfect. It matters that we're real.

In a blog post from the online version of *Relevant* magazine, a writer connected the vulnerability of Jesus to our own: *It was on the cross that Jesus became vulnerable for you and for me. Christ's vulnerability has changed everything. He knows our weaknesses inside and out, for he too faced temptation, suffering, and sin – overcoming them for us on the Cross. We have a Savior who has given us eternal life, and in the here and now, he sympathizes with our weaknesses (Heb. 4:15).*

I realize that this Way makes lots of us uncomfortable. "We don't air our dirty laundry" we were taught. Here's the thing: dirty clothes never get clean when hidden and balled up in the darkest corner of your closet. Dirty clothes grow filthier in the dark.

How can you start? You don't have to tell every dark secret from your past week. In fact, a part of this Way encourages us to share our joys—answered prayer, the birth of a grandchild, a new job or a blessing you recently received. When someone asks you how you are, consider going a little deeper than, "I'm fine." You could simply tell another that you'd appreciate their prayers. If you're close to that person or sense that the she or he is trustworthy, you could pull that person aside and share what you need to share.

Bring us who you are. You'll help others who have struggles and burdens. By all means, bring your joy. We need lots of it these days. Come as you are. After all, that's how God knows you and loves you.

Stuart Spencer, Pastor

**Summer Hours Approved by Session**  
**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.

**Adult Ed May 5**

“Church in Blue: Faith from Augustine to Coltrane”

This second week of a 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.

**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](mailto:dheller374@comcast.net), or visit [redcrossblood.org/give](http://redcrossblood.org/give) and enter “First Presbyterian Moorestown.” YOU ARE APPRECIATED!

**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**

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](http://www.fpcmoorestown.org) or with Jim Cole at (856) 296-5732 or [jamescole7@comcast.net](mailto:jamescole7@comcast.net).

**College of Elders & Deacons  
May 23, 2019**

**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](mailto:Jan.Martin@fpcmoorestown.org) 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!



**Sunday, May 5**

9:45-10:45 am— Fellowship Hall

Sit Down with Session

**Come fill out a survey** about preferences for fall worship times, styles, Adult Ed and Sunday School

**God’s Blessings Chris and Caitlyn**

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. We wish God’s blessings to these two gifted interns and are grateful for their year in ministry with us. They will both graduate on May 18.



**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!

**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!](http://fpcmoorestown.org/step-by-step-preschool!)

**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. RSVP to [Jan Martin](mailto:Jan.Martin@fpcmoorestown.org) 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.

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

**It will be Strawberry-tastic!** 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. The highlights of the evening will be homemade cakes with fresh strawberries, The Moorestown Community Band, Face Painter, Balloon artists, fun inflatables, food tent and more! Tickets just \$7.00; kids 3 & under are FREE. Purchase tickets in the Church Office or from any Deacon, Elder or Trustee. NEW! Moorestown Hardware and Maurizio's Bistro will be selling tickets too!

**Cakes, cakes and more cakes!**

Over 300 cakes are needed to serve the community. WOW. 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!** We are looking for help 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 during the festival! Want to help? Please see the sign up tables in the lobby for available positions and time-slots! **Opportunities are open to those in high school or older;** students: bring in Community Service forms to get credit for your efforts.

**Upcoming Dates**

- ◆ **May 19:** Last day of Sunday School, Teacher Appreciation
- ◆ **May 26:** Summer Hours Begin; 9:00 a.m. Traditional and 10:30 a.m. Contemporary; no Adult Education or Sunday School in the summer
- ◆ **May 26:** Installation and Ordination of Officers

**Staff Profile: Kelly LePenske**

Kelly was raised in Seattle, WA before moving to Los Angeles, CA for college (Azusa Pacific University '11). She joined the FPCM staff in June 2018 after graduating from Princeton Theological Seminary with an M.Div. in May 2018. Kelly enjoys leading worship, adult education, and supporting small group ministries, and serves as the Pastoral Associate while the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) conducts its search. She previously served with Stuart at Thompson Memorial Presbyterian Church in New Hope, PA and is seeking ordination in the PC-USA Church. Kelly loves hiking, '70s music, and exploring Philly's food and arts scene... but she still thinks the best tacos are in California.



**June 2: Youth Sunday**

CREDO Confirmation Class Recognition; Youth Sunday; Graduate Recognition

