



Denmark Youth Choir Tour: July 28-August 7. Safe Travels!

Hope you're having a great summer!

SAVE THE DATE:
Fall Kickoff & Bible Sunday
 Sunday, September 8

Fall Kickoff, Meet your Teachers, Bible Sunday

Return to regular worship times:

8:30 a.m. Traditional (Sanctuary)

9:45-10:45 a.m.: Sunday School & Adult Education

11:00 a.m. Contemporary (Miller Commons)

Summer Youth Happenings

Gather with your friends throughout the summer to hang out at the church and just "be" with one another:

⇒ **Middle Schoolers Get Together** — Wednesday afternoons 4-6 p.m.

⇒ **High Schoolers Get Together** — Monday evenings 6-8 p.m.

Contact Youth Director Dan Wonneberger at cell/text (856) 745-6596, Instagram or dwonneberger@fpcmoorestown.org.

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

"That's the whole story. Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone's duty."

- Ecclesiastes 12: 13

For Families and Children:

Holly Ascitto

856-235-1688, x116

hascitto@fpcmoorestown.org

For Families and Youth:

Dan Wonneberger

856-745-6596 (cell/text)

dwonneberger@fpcmoorestown.org



Pastoral Staff Time Away

Pastor Spencer will be traveling with the Denmark Touring Choir July 28-August 7 in Scandinavia. He will return for a week then will be on vacation with his family August 14-26, returning to the office Tuesday, August 27. On Sunday, Aug. 18 we will welcome guest preacher Rev. Dr. Debby Brincivalli, Executive Presbyter of the West Jersey Presbytery. Pastoral Associate Kelly LePenske will be on vacation Aug. 5-19, and will return to the office on Aug. 20. Kelly will preach on Sunday, August 25. For pastoral care and concerns during these times, please contact the church office at (856) 235-1688 or Jan Martin at jmartin@fpcmoorestown.org. We are grateful to Linda Vandergrift for handling pastoral care coverage August 14-19 when both pastors are away.

FPCM is Collecting for Ministries

Please see the clear bins outside of Missionwares for ongoing Missions collections: (1) School Supplies for students at Haiti Outreach Ministries; (2) Entirely Black Shoes and black Sneakers for students at Haiti Outreach Ministries; (3) Diapers sizes 1 & 2 for babies at Hope Alive Clinic in Haiti; (4) Full sized toiletries for girls at House of Hope girls home in Haiti; (5) Travel sized toiletries for Feeding 5000; (6) Plastic grocery bags to make sleep mats for the homeless at Christian Caring Center; (7) used cell phones and lap top computers for Haiti Outreach Ministries (please drop computers and phones off at the church office).

Donations are greatly appreciated!

Are You Interested in Acolyting?

The Worship Committee is preparing the acolyte schedule for 2019-2020. Any parents of youth second grade or older who are interested in acolyting please contact Sarah Rotter at sarah.rotter@gmail.com or (609) 332-9067 cell/text. This is a wonderful way to engage children in worship and bring the light of Christ.

First Presbyterian Church

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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

SUMMER WORSHIP

(summer hours end Sunday,

Sept. 1, Labor Day wk.)

- 9:00 am Traditional

- 10:30 am Contemporary

Connect. Devote.

Serve. Worship.

EDUCATION

Children's Sunday school and Adult Education take a break for the summer months.

Kids and Adults:

We will see you on

Sunday, September 8

for Fall Kickoff!

"Connections" is published weekly for Sunday worship and every two weeks in the summer. 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

July 28-Aug. 11, 2019

GRACE NOTES

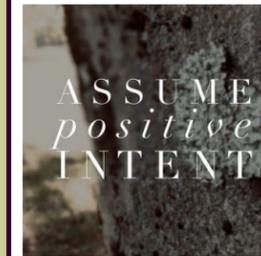
July 28-August 11, 2019 (double issue)

FPCM Ways of the Week



4. ALWAYS ENCOURAGE AND CELEBRATE (July 28–August 4). Show gratitude and appreciation by regularly acknowledging the good works you see everywhere. Look for signs of spiritual growth and maturity among our members and staff. When you see it, point it out and rejoice. Pass on good reports that you hear about others. (1 Thessalonians 1: 3, 4)

No matter who it comes from, criticism doesn't feel good, and recent studies are finding that it doesn't do a lot of good, either. Psychologists at Stony Brook University found that when children receive frequent criticism from their parents, they're more likely to develop anxiety, depression and social withdrawal that may last a lifetime. As people filled with the love and hope of Jesus Christ, we're called to pour love and hope into everyone we meet. A kind word has immense power on a personal and communal level. It's as refreshing as a cool glass of water on a sweltering summer day. Encouragement breathes new hope, life and grace into everyone, which helps all of us thrive.



5. ASSUME POSITIVE INTENT (August 4–11). Decide to trust that other members are being fair, honest and concerned for the well-being of our church. Set aside your own judgements and preconceived notions. Surrender the urge to criticize and judge—it doesn't help. (Matthew 7: 1)

There's a lot that goes on beneath the surface of a single human being. We're all messy, broken and complex, but guess what—God's not in the business of writing people off. And neither is the church! The Bible is filled with story after story where God calls on unexpected (and even unlikable) characters to lead, serve and transform communities.

Assuming positive intent means taking off your glasses of judgment and letting God hand you a new pair. Warning: you may notice a sudden change in your vision. You're no longer focused on others' annoyances or weaknesses. Instead, you recognize something compelling in everyone, and you wonder if it's been there all along. It's God's divine image. It's the revelation of Colossians 3:11: "Christ is all, and is in all."

Maybe it's hard to see potential in others because you don't see it in yourself. Maybe it's time to exchange your old glasses for God's prescription of grace.

Kelly LePenske, Pastoral Associate

SUMMER UPDATE to the Membership Directory is available in the Commons Lobby. Please let the office know of any corrections.

IMPORTANT
New Locking System to be Installed August 1
 The church will be installing new doors locks on August 1. **The building doors will now be unlocked from 6:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. each evening (if events are scheduled).** Entry doors will be the glass lobby doors and the back staff lot door. If you have keys to the church, kindly return them to the church office for recycling. For questions please contact Earl Gage at the church office (856) 235-1688, Ext. 106 or egage@fpcmoorestown.org.



Parking lot construction begins August 5th

UNDER CONSTRUCTION:
Parking Lot Renovation in August
 On **Monday, August 5th** work will begin on all three parking lots at First Presbyterian Church. The large parking lot at the rear of the property will be under construction during **WEEKDAYS ONLY August 5-25**. The large parking lot will be available for parking on all Sundays during the project.
 Resurfacing of the two smaller lots will occur on Friday, August 9th and should be completed in one day. For the convenience of visitors, volunteers and staff, our smaller lots located next to the Sanctuary and at the office entrance will be **OPEN** during the week to accommodate parking while the large lot is closed. **Thank you for your patience!**

Safe Travels to our Denmark Touring Choir
 See our website and eblast for a [Prayer Guide](#) so you can pray for our Denmark team daily based upon specific scheduled activities.

From July 28-August 7, 52 singers aged third grade to college will travel to Scandinavia for a nine-concert tour. Thirty-five adults will oversee the group. The choir will perform seven concerts in Denmark, one in Germany and one in Sweden in historic churches. On Sunday, June 21, tour participants were commissioned during worship and that afternoon, performed a preview concert at FPCM. They are remarkable!

The Lord's Supper
 Communion for August will be on **August 11** (moved from Aug. 4).

PW Matching Game
 Congratulations to Jane Murphy and Amy Coombe, who each were awarded \$20 Wawa gift cards as they tied for first place in the PW Matching contest with 5 of 12 cor-

rect answers. Photos of adorable children were matched with the 12 lovely ladies of the PW Coordinating Team. Check out the bulletin board across from the kitchen for the correct answers! How many could you recognize?

Please SIGN IN on the worship attendance pages

Thank You for Your Faithfulness

Church operations continue year-round, and your Stewardship Committee reminds you that the traditional drop in giving during the summer months greatly affects the health of our church as well as those who rely on our support. Thank you for your faithful generosity. Please consider taking advantage of [online giving](#) — a safe, secure automatic withdrawal. It's simple to sign up. No more writing checks or searching for offering envelopes! Contact Norm Vandergrift at (856) 235-1688, nvandergrift@fpcmoorestown.org.

Undies Sundays ~ BOGO is Back!

The PW Missions' annual BUY ONE ~ GIVE ONE collection of kids' underwear, socks & PJ's will be underway **August 3rd-18th**. When you shop for your kids, please buy an extra package for a child in Camden. Seeds of Hope ministry will distribute these donations to families with a parent in prison and to others in need on August 19. You can participate in this as well. Look for the GREEN basket in the Commons lobby to drop off your gifts. Pencils are important, but new undies are essential! Many thanks. Contact Gayle Payne at dpayne4501@aol.com for more information.



Summer Inquirers Class August 10-11 for Prospective Members

Are you interested in learning more about our church and possibly joining our congregation? We invite you to attend our Summer Inquirers Class **August 10-11**. Sessions are designed to allow participants to share and receive information on the meaning of membership in the Presbyterian Church. Coffee and lunch will be provided on Saturday. Lunch will also be provided for the Sunday meeting with Session, our church's governing body. Those interested are asked to please attend both sessions:

- ◆ **Saturday, Aug. 10:** 9 am-3 pm (Room 3-4)
- ◆ **Sunday, Aug. 11:** 11:30 am-1:00 pm (Room 3-4)

Those who complete the class and desire to join First Presbyterian Church will be welcomed as new members in September during morning worship. Please reserve your space by contacting Alison Mackey in the church office at (856) 235-1688, Ext. 113 or amackey@fpcmoorestown.org. Childcare available as requested.

Dine and Donate for Haiti Mission Trip Sunday, August 11

[Bertucci's Italian Restaurant](#)
 1220 Nixon Drive
 Mount Laurel
 (by Moorestown Mall)
 11:30 a.m.—9:00 p.m.

Summer Worship hours end Sunday, Sept. 1 (Labor Day weekend)
Return to regular hours Sunday, Sept. 8

It's Coming: Devotional Guide for Ways 6-10

The next devotional guide in our book series illustrating the 25 Ways culture statements is scheduled to be available on **August 4**. Like the first guide for Ways 1-5, Volume 2 is a beautiful 5-week daily devotional guide, including related scriptures and illustrations for Ways 6-10. Suggested donation is \$10 each; all proceeds will support our prayer ministry.

The book is part of a 5-book set, with each addressing five Ways. Get yours in the Commons Lobby on Sundays, the church office, or text "\$10 pray" to 84321. If you already have an account you will simply be charged. If you haven't used our online donations, you will be guided through a simple process. Want to have the complete 5-book set? It's yours! Suggested donation \$50. Contact the church office at (856) 235-1688.

Fall Worship Schedule

Beginning Sunday, September 8, 2019 we will return to our regular schedule, as approved by Session. See the Friday eblast and your mail for a letter from Rev. Spencer regarding this and upcoming summer upgrades to FPCM:

- 8:30 a.m.**
Traditional (Sanctuary)
- 9:45-10:45 a.m.**
Sunday School & Adult Education
- 11:00 a.m.**
Contemporary (Miller Commons)

"Church Has Left the Building" Ideas

Planning Event: Thursday, Aug. 1, 7:00 p.m. The Planning Committee is currently assembling possible service projects for our event on October 27th, and **we'd love to hear your suggestions!** Would your small group like to coordinate together? Are you already involved with an organization that needs volunteers? Do you know of a place that could us help? We want to hear about all of them! Projects can be inclusive of all ages and abilities, so all suggestions are welcome! Contact co-coordinator Jen Allen at wjvallen@icloud.com or place ideas in the envelope on the bulletin board outside of Missionwares. We need YOU to make this day a success! Also contact Linda Jagiela at (267) 275-7582 or missions@fpcmoorestown.org.

Invite Friends to August 20 Front Yard Fellowship

Two more opportunities remain for our summer Front Yard Fellowship—a free BBQ open to the church and community. This is an effort coordinated by one of our small groups. Join hands with FYF to love people, BBQ and keep the fun going! Send Kelly an e-mail at klepenske@fpcmoorestown.org.



FRONT YARD FELLOWSHIP Tuesday, August 20 ~ 6-8 pm Sunday, Sept. 8 ~ Noon

Bring a dish to share, lawn chair ... and friends!