

FAMILY MINISTRY

We're having a Food Drive! Brings food to church by October 13 (see pg. 2)



First Communion Workshop

TODAY:
Communion Workshop
Sunday, Sept. 22
9:45-10:45 am (Room 6)
For children 4th grade and up

First Communion **October 6**, both services

[World Communion Sunday](#)

Let's celebrate together as we welcome them to the Table of the Lord's Supper as brothers and sisters



So this happened ...
Crud Wars 2019 is in the books! Youth grades 7-12 jump started their program year last Sunday afternoon ...

High School Retreat
Registration is OPEN for the January 24-26, 2020 high school retreat; visit Events: www.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

Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."
- Matthew 11:28

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

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

Kids and Youth Groups Return

A new year of Youth Groups and Kids Groups is upon us! Our groups look forward to another year of activities and growing as God's people. Here are the start dates. PLEASE SIGN UP on the Coming Events page at www.fpcmoorestown.org.

- ⇒ Crud Wars (grades 7-12) on **Sunday, Sept. 15th** (noon)
- ⇒ Flock (grades 7-8) on **Wednesday, Sept. 18th** (6:30-8:00 pm)
- ⇒ Wave (grades 9-12) on **Sunday, Sept. 22nd** (6:30-8:30 pm)
- ⇒ Family Dinner (all) on **Wednesday, October 2nd** (6:00-7:00 pm)
- ⇒ Kingdom Kids (K-3rd) on **Wednesday, October 2nd** (4:45-5:45 pm)
- ⇒ Crossing Zone (4th-6h) on **Wednesday, October 2nd** (6:30-7:30 pm)



Choir Rehearsals Underway -- Opportunities for All Ages

Opportunities are available for all ages and abilities in our music ministry under the leadership of Director of Music Joel Krott and Bell Choir Director Kathy Gunsallus. Come try it this year! Be a part of this incredible ministry here at First Presbyterian. Open to members of the community. Choir rehearsals begin:

- **Bell Choir:** Tues. Sept. 3 (6:00 pm)
- **Choristers** (Grades 5-8): Wed. Sept. 11 (5:00 pm)
- **Adult Choir:** Thurs. Sept. 12 (7:30 pm)

- **Junior Choir** (Grades 2-4): Tues. Sept. 17 (4:00 pm)
- **Chapel Choir** (Grades 9-12): Tues. Sept. 17 (7:00 pm)
- **Primary Choir** (Grades K-1): Wed. Oct. 2 (4:00 pm)

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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

**Connect. Devote.
Serve. Worship.**

EDUCATION HOUR
September 22, 2019
9:45-10:45 a.m.

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

SEPT. 22 Adult Education
- Dr. Paul Booker: "If God Needs Rest, So Do You" (Fellowship Hall)
- 3 C's Begins October 6

"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

September 22-29, 2019

GRACE NOTES / FPCM Ways of the Week September 22-29, 2019

OWN OUR CHURCH

12. OWN OUR CHURCH. The work of the church isn't defined by pastors and staff alone; it comes from each member actively participating in the life of Jesus Christ. Claim ownership of FPCM's mission, programs, and property. Each is an expression of how God is working among us! Support others. Be informed. Volunteer for a new role. Live like you're the church — because you are!

"The work of the church isn't defined by pastors and staff alone...Live like you're the church, because you are." This excerpt from our FPC WAYS booklet is true for involvement in a church and many other organizations. As a college freshman, I joined a fraternity. After pledging, I chose to be a "Social Member", coming to the house periodically and going to parties and dances. I was friendly with the brothers and pledges, but didn't get to know any of them very well. I participated in one "work day", and came to business meetings, but I really wasn't in touch with house issues. I was a good Social Member, but not a "great" brother.

In my second year, I moved into the house and was immediately immersed in the life of my fraternity, helping brothers move in, redecorating my room, and supporting the Rush Committee. I ate, slept, studied, played intramural sports and (yes) partied with my brothers. I loved being a brother and called the chapter house my home. I was an active member, but not yet an Owner.

Later, I became Pledge Chairman — responsible for both rushing and training our "newbies." While in this post for two semesters, I developed a deep relationship with our 30 new members. As an officer, I was involved in planning and executing house maintenance, social events, intramural sports, and community service programs. By the end of that year, I felt a strong level of commitment to my brothers and pride our activities. I had come to OWN our fraternity.

My experience at IBM was similar, where, as a trainee, I would ask "Why do YOU (meaning the IBM company) do that? After a year, I asked "Why do WE do that? It was a subtle change of the phrase, but it reflected that, I had become an Owner of IBM (one of 300,000). My church life has followed this familiar path, as I transitioned from a new member to an active member (helping the church leaders), to taking ownership for some part of church life as a Deacon, Trustee, and finally Elder.

Taking ownership for these organizations has meant making a larger commitment of time to work with, and for, the other members. Being an Owner has helped me better serve the organization, and get more satisfaction from my involvement. So, in the final analysis, Ownership is its Own reward. As brothers and sisters in Christ I hope you will Own Your Church and receive the rewards I have.

Elder Paul Grossmann

NO Sunday School or Adult Education on Sept. 29 for 5th Sunday

Adult Education Sept. 22

Why does the Sabbath matter? Are we seriously called to rest as disciples of Christ? Special guest Dr. Paul Booker dives deeper into the Gospels to explore psychological and physical benefits of rest, sociocultural barriers, and how Christ calls us to *transcendent rest*. Fellowship Hall 9:45 a.m.

World Communion Sunday

The first Sunday in October is World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with our brothers and sisters around the world. This will also be the First Communion experience for some of our children (see pg 4).

Bass Family Benefit

Please join us **Wed. October 12** at 7:00 pm as we raise much-needed funds for our "Hope Alive Mission and Friends." Hear the Bass Family with our own Martin and Christine Bass, as they sing and play a variety of Christian songs. Learn more at www.fpcmoorestown.org. Miller Commons

Pastor Appreciation Sunday; Prayer Labyrinth Dedication

Pastor Appreciation Sunday is **October 13th**. If you would like to share some kind words of appreciation with our Pastoral staff, there will be baskets located in the Commons Lobby and in the Narthex to receive cards and notes for Rev. Stuart Spencer and Pastoral Associate Kelly LePenske.

After the 11:00 am service that day, please join us outside at the beautiful new Prayer Labyrinth for a short **Dedication Ceremony honoring Pastor Dick Herman**. The ceremony will be followed by cake as we celebrate the ministry of Rev. Dr. Herman and our current First Presbyterian pastoral staff.

Devotional Guide, Vol. 3

Volume 3 in our series illustrating the 25 Ways is now available. This 5-week daily devotional guide includes scriptures and illustrations for Ways 11-15. Suggested donation \$10; proceeds support our prayer ministry. **Get yours in the Commons Lobby on Sundays, the church office, or text "\$10 pray" to 84321.** If you already have an account you'll simply be charged. If you haven't used our online donations, you'll be guided through a simple process. The complete 5-book set is available too—suggested donation \$50.

Looking for Caregiver

We're hiring! Help support small group ministries by providing childcare for kids ages 4 and under. Paid position, only 2 hrs/wk, Wed. mornings from 9-11 a.m. at church. Interested or know someone who might be a great fit? Contact Kelly LePenske at klepenske@fpcmoorestown.org or call/text (206) 484-6758.

Deacons & Children's Sunday School Food Drive

The Deacons have "joined hands" with the Children's Sunday School Classes to provide much needed food for St. Matthew's Ministerium Food Pantry and FPC's Food Pantry. Paper bags with a "suggested food list" will be distributed Sunday, September 29 after the morning service and Sunday, October 6, in the Sunday School Classes. Please fill up a bag or two and return the food through **October 13** to the shopping cart in the Commons Lobby. *Deacon Helen Dominy & Children's Ministry Director Holly Ascuitto.*



PLEASE SIGN IN on the attendance pads in both worship services

Parking Lot Update

The Parking lot Project is at a temporary stoppage due to "soft spots" found after the first or base coat was applied. The engineer's plan called for specific removal and replacement of the foundation, which was completed. However soft spots continue to hamper completion of the project. These spots will be re-dug, more foundation placed, and then recovered. After the engineer and contractor are satisfied, the final 2.5 inches will be applied and then the lines painted on. Thank you for your patience. Please remember to park so no one is blocked in.

The church office is looking for a Friday morning desk volunteer. Interested? Call [Jan Martin](mailto:Jan.Martin@fpcmoorestown.org) at (856) 235-1688, x133

Stewardship Series Begins Sept. 29

Our three-week stewardship series "Giving Stories" begins on Sept. 29 and features Stewardship Moments challenging each of us to listen to God's call. Speakers are: Sept. 29 (Brian Perkowski), Oct. 6 (Steve Shaffer) and Oct. 13 (Jeff & Jenny Legath). The series culminates on Oct. 20th with Consecration Sunday and a catered Celebration Brunch.

Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the giver's need to give for his or her own spiritual growth. The focus is on engaging followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. Watch your mail for more information.

During a **COMBINED 9:30 a.m. worship service** on October 20th, members will dedicate their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries. Guest Leader and dear friend

Rev. Katie Sundermeier will preach and lead us through a brief instruction, with members filling out their commitments confidentially in worship. Brunch RSVPs will be collected in October and church leaders will call households to obtain luncheon attendance. We want everyone to attend this Celebration!

If money were no object, what would I like to see our church do?



IHN Here Sept. 22-29

Sept. 22-29 we will be hosting homeless families for IHN. New families to bring dinners and food, sleep over, or drive are eagerly encouraged to get involved in this wonderful opportunity to serve! Contact Chris Catanella at christine.catanella@gmail.com. **Please note meetings that week may shift to alternate rooms.**

5th Sunday is Coming; Taste of Africa

On September 29th, we will gather for our first 5th Sunday of the program year, with a **9:30 a.m.** combined worship and Taste of Africa event, highlighting African missions. Our guest preacher will be Dr. Bruce Main from UrbanPromise. There is no Sunday School or Adult Education that day.

Lunch Bunch

Don't miss the first event of the Lunch Bunch season **Thursday, Oct. 3** (12 noon) in Fellowship Hall. Visit with friends over a delicious lunch on the first Thursday from October to May. \$5.00 per person. Pastoral Associate Kelly LePenske is the guest speaker. Come learn about Kelly's faith journey.

Stephen Ministers

Stephen Ministers know well that the work of the church isn't defined by pastors and staff alone. That is why our Stephen Ministers are available to lend an ear to those who have been experiencing difficult times and need help. If you or someone you know is in that position, call Doris Kahley at 609-261-8474 or the church office at 854-235-1688 and ask for a Stephen minister.

Happy 131st Birthday FPC

In honor of the church's celebration of its founding on September 12, 1888, members can donate to the future of FPC by giving to the September 12 endowment fund. The fund is invested to earn income which helps to support the needs of our church. Look for a [letter](#) from the pastor and special envelopes in the pews and your envelope boxes; give securely online too!

Friday Nighters

We're Back! The Friday Nighters' season opens on October 4th with favorite "Stillwaters Gospel Band" back by popular demand. This band presents a varied program--a little Gospel, some Pop, some Bluegrass, mixed in with old favorites. There is no charge for this program, only a dish to pass since this is a potluck supper beginning at 6:30 PM. Reservations due by **Wednesday, October 2nd** to Ralph and Betsy Gildehaus 856-234-5414. See you there!

Dr. Steve Treat Returns

SAVE THE DATE for a unique Marriage Workshop with Dr. Steven Treat on **Wednesday, October 30th**: "Connecting and Reconnecting in Your Marriage: Growing Closer, Growing in Intimacy." Come to Family Dinner at 6:00 pm. Sign up online at Coming Events at www.fpcmoorestown.org. FREE.

Alpha Dinner Series

The fall Alpha series runs through Nov. 6. Three separate tracks are offered; see the Events page of www.fpcmoorestown.org. Newcomers encouraged. Contact [Jim Cole](#). Wed. 6:30 pm (Room 3-4)