

FAMILY MINISTRY

There will be NO Family Dinner December 18-January 29, 2020

Kingdom Kids Christmas Break

- Kingdom Kids Christmas party: Wednesday, Dec. 11
- Kingdom Kids will resume on Wednesday, Feb. 5

Crossing Zone Christmas Break

- Crossing Zone Christmas party: Wednesday, Dec. 11
- Crossing Zone will resume on Wednesday, Feb. 5



Flock Christmas Break

- Flock Christmas party: Wednesday, Dec. 11
- Flock will resume on Wednesday, January 15

Wave Christmas Break

- Wave Christmas party: Sunday, December 15
- Wave will resume Sunday, January 12

CREDO Confirmation

The Confirmation class concludes for the season on Nov. 24. CREDO resumes on May 3, 2020.

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

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.
(Luke 2: 9, 10)

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

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

Homework/Reading Rooms

PARENTS: On Wednesday evenings, we are providing homework/reading rooms for children who do not participate in Family Dinners; specifically for those children who would rather do homework, read etc. Per church policy we must have separate rooms for boys and girls since the areas will not be chaperoned. The boys will utilize the Prayer Room, and the girls the Hayes Room. This will be from 6:00-6:30 pm only. If you are a parent of a child that will use these rooms and are present during Family Dinners we encourage you to check in on these spaces once in a while.

Family Dinner Menu for Wednesday, December 4 (6-7 pm)

Shepherd's Pie, Sausage, Peppers and Onions, Penne with Rosé Sauce, Bread, and Beverages



Save The Date: Kids and Youth Christmas Parties!

- ⇒ Wednesday, Dec. 11: Kingdom Kids (4:45 pm)
- ⇒ Wednesday, Dec. 11: Crossing Zone (6:30 pm)
- ⇒ Wednesday, Dec. 11: Flock (6:30 pm)
- ⇒ Sunday, Dec. 15: Wave (6:30 pm)

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WORSHIP HOURS

- 8:30 am Traditional
- 11:00 am Contemporary

Connect. Devote.
Serve. Worship.

EDUCATION HOUR

November 24, 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

Adult Education

- ⇒ 3 C's (Lounge)
- ⇒ **Coming Dec. 1:** The Story of Advent

"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](#).



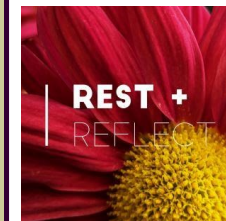
Connections



First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

December 1-8,

GRACE NOTES / FPCM Ways of the Week December 1-8, 2019



22. REST & REFLECT. Make time in your week to step back from work, school, and stressful demands. Since Christ has freed us, we no longer have to be obsessively driven. Take a walk, play, nap, meet up with friends, share a meal, or just take some time in solitude.
- Genesis 2: 2-3; Matthew 11: 28; Mark 2: 27

DECEMBER 1 is special to me because this was always the day I brought out this 4-foot holly bush with fake leaves and red berries. It truly was sad-looking, as it had seen a few years of being the Hannukah Bush and the Christmas tree. We had an advent calendar made from tiny storybook ornaments each a piece of the story of Jesus' birth. Everyday after school and soccer or choir or both, before dinner we sat at this tree and found the day that was to be read. They would take turns reading the story day-by-day, sometime with a little drama of where that ornament was to be hung. Just recently I threw away that sad tree but the memories shine like the twinkling lights that made the little tree so bright. The tiny books are packed away for the next generation to share.

Then it was a December filled with a myriad of Christmas/Holiday events, when you have children that are two years apart each in a different grade, different choir and different practices, different sports and different instruments. I think many parents reading this can identify with this normalcy. Then there were Hanukkah candles to light, school choral concerts, violin recitals, bell choir and all of the rehearsals for the Christmas Eve services, plus Andrew's birthday on the 22nd of December and a birthday party in there somewhere. On Christmas Eve we were at the Church from around 4 PM until 11:30 pm after the Bell Choir was finished.

I will always be grateful for Joel Krott for teaching Allyson and Andrew about Jesus through songs they sung. They loved choir practice as well as singing in the choir at church. They never had to be convinced to go. Thank you, Mr. Krott!

Christmas Day was spent in pajamas from beginning to end after finding Baby Jesus in the manger under the tree. Phew! Now, I can reflect and see what glorious memories have been made at our church. all in the Name of Jesus Christ.

Now, here's the amazing part — 18 years later, Andrew was home for the day and after lunch he wanted to go by the church. I was surprised, but glad. He wanted to see if Mr. Krott was in his office. He took the stairs 2 at a time as he did when he was young. No Mr. Krott, for he was leading the Youth Retreat. He said he remembered that, too. The memories of the church were still there and will be there forever. As the Bible says, "Teach a child in the way they should go, and they will come back to Him." (Proverbs 22: 6)

Deborah Heller

Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) Guests here December 1-8.

Manger Sunday

On Manger Sunday **Dec. 15** we will present our gifts at the manger as the Magi did so long ago. Bring gifts **unwrapped**. Gifts will be donated that day to Oaks Integrated Care for families in need to use. See our website for Wish List. During worship, individuals will bring their gifts forward amidst beloved carols of the Christmas season. See our website for a list of suggested items.

Advent Devotional Guide

As part of "Devote" in our goal to "Connect. Devote. Serve. Worship" Advent devotional guides are available in the Commons Lobby to guide one through the Advent Season. The First Sunday of Advent is **December 1**.

Stop by the Mitten Tree in the Commons Lobby to contribute warm mittens and hats for needy children, sponsored by the Knitting Network.

Angel Tree EXTENDED!

Thank you to all who have picked up Angels and Christian Caring Center (CCC) ornaments from the Angel Tree. There are lots of CCC gifts still available on the tree, so please make your way over to the table in Miller Commons, select a CCC ornament and make a child's Christmas! Deadline to return gifts has also been **extended**. Please have all gifts returned by 12 pm on Sunday **12/8** to ensure prompt delivery. Questions: Please contact Deacon Steve Connlain at 856-425-5043 or sconnlain@gmail.com.

Christmas Toy Drive

Annette Emerson is conducting the annual toy drive for the Presbyterian Food Shelf in Camden. Can you help? Drop off new, **unwrapped** toys labeled "Emerson" in the Commons Lobby, church office or at the Emerson home (329 Springhouse Lane, Moorestown). Or call Annette at 856-234-0717 for a pickup. Gifts are most needed for ages 3-13.

Special Holiday Giving Opportunities

- ◆ **Year-End Stock Donations** — Please remember the church in your year-end donations. Process gifts expediently by contacting your broker or [Norman Vandergrift](mailto:Norman.Vandergrift@fpcmoorestown.org) at 856-235-1688, Ext. 112.
- ◆ **Christmas Green Offering**— directly aids our FPCM church program areas (month of December, also in boxed sets)
- ◆ **Christmas Joy Offering**— our denominational gift to assist racial-ethnic schools and retired church workers who need financial assistance (**December 15**)
- ◆ **General Budget Help**— a gift above your pledged giving that keeps our ministry going forward. Every love gift helps us close the gap. [Donate online](http://www.fpcmoorestown.org) at www.fpcmoorestown.org. [Read a letter](#) from Pastor Spencer about our year!

Longest Night Service

Sunday, December 8 (7:00 pm)

A Service of Light in the Midst of Darkness

This service provides peace to those dealing with grief, illness, anxiety or depression this holiday season who may not feel the joy or celebration seen in others. The Longest Night includes elements from a service of remembrance, including the Lord's Supper, special music and a time for prayer. If you, or someone you know needs a quiet place in the rush of December, come to the Longest Night. Pastoral Associate Kelly LePenske will lead this service.

If you have someone to invite to the Longest Night, leave their name and address with the church office by Nov. 25 so we may send them an invitation.

**Pick up poinsettias
you've ordered
on December 15,
Manger Sunday**



New Picture Directory!

The Picture Directory is coming! Yes, we are making plans for a new picture directory. One thing is delaying the process — we need someone to help manage it! Is that person you? Please pray about it -Are you feeling the nudge from God?

Call Bruce Melson at 856-429-2233 or brustew52@yahoo.com.



Holiday Worship Schedule Tuesday, December 24

- 4:00 pm Family Service
- 6:00 pm Family Service
- 8:30 pm Communion
- 10:40 pm Chapel Choir Concert/11:00 pm Lessons & Carols

Christmas Day Worship

December 25 ~ 9:30 am

5th Sunday (combined worship)

December 29 ~ 9:30 am

Grace Notes Opportunity

Beginning Sunday, Dec. 29, we will begin our third round of the 25 Ways. Members of the congregation are invited to select their favorite Way and offer their thoughts and illustrations for *Grace Notes* on the front of *Connections*! Which way speaks to you? SIGN UP with Jan Martin in the church office at jmartin@fpcmoorestown.org or (856) 235-1688, Ext. 133.

West Jersey Christmas Concert Set for Dec. 14

Sunday Worship Flowers

Reservations are being taken now for Sunday flower donations for 2020. Vases are \$40 each and two vases are available each Sunday. To reserve dates, contact Rumi Sinunu at rts319@gmail.com or (856) 266-4047 or sign up in the Commons Lobby. Worship flowers are broken down to deliver to two individuals who can use a pick me up. What better way to commemorate loved ones or special dates in your life.

Ways Devotional Vol. 5 Now Available Suggested Donation \$10

Adult Education

- **3 C's Class** (Coffee, Conversation & Christ), 9:45 a.m. in the Lounge
- **Beginning Dec. 1:** Ruth Stotsen-burg presents "Are You Ready?: The Story of Advent." Travel back through time to journey with key biblical figures who experienced the event of Jesus' birth. This 4-week series unearths the meaning of Advent and explores how "the 4 P's" shaped the story of Christ. Fellowship Hall, Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22.

Alternative Gift Market

The Alternative Gift Market will be coming soon — watch for the catalog outside Missionwares and on our website. Alternate Gifts allow donations to worthy causes in the name of the gift recipient. Volunteers are needed to man the Alternative Gift Market on Sundays in November and December. Sign up with [Linda Jagiela](mailto:Linda.Jagiela@fpcmoorestown.org) or [Jen Allen](mailto:Jen.Allen@fpcmoorestown.org).

We Host IHN Dec. 1-8

We will be hosting transitional families for Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) **Dec. 1-8**. 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 chris-tine.catanella@gmail.com.

Please note meetings that week may shift to alternate rooms.



**Save the Date
PW Winter Gathering
January 13, 2020
10:00 a.m.**

A New Sanctuary Tree!

Thank you to an anonymous active member of Presbyterian Women who donated a new Christmas tree for the Sanctuary. The tree was given in loving memory of **Cathy Denton** who was a past Moderator of PW. She took the lead in creating the Crismons (religious ornaments) that bless our tree and mentored others who preserved them over the years. We are grateful to both ladies for their generosity of Spirit.

Christmas Basket Help

Your Deacons are looking for volunteers for Christmas Food Baskets! Helpers are needed for the pickup (7:45 am), packing (8:15 am) and delivery (9:00 am) on **Saturday, December 14th**. Sign-up at the Welcome Desk and in the Narthex. Questions? Please contact Helen Dominy at 856-235-5594 or rmdsrillc@aol.com.

December Lunch Bunch December 5th ~ 12 noon

Kick off the Christmas season with a delicious holiday-themed Lunch Bunch and Carol Sing, accompanied by Martha Eshelman on piano. Lunch Bunch begins at 12 noon in Fellowship Hall. Suggested donation: \$5.00 per person.

Friday Nighters Christmas Dinner & Carol Sing

Members of the congregation are invited to the Friday Nighters on **Friday, December 6th**, 6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall for holiday cheer! Cost: \$25 per person; RSVP by Dec. 2nd to Jim & Marian Hartshorne at 856-235-5442. Mail checks payable to Friday Nighters to the Hartshornes at 327 Bridgeboro Road, Moorestown.