

# FAMILY MINISTRY

## Family Advent Celebration ~ Saturday, November 30

### Family Advent Celebration

Saturday, November 30 ~ 2-4 p.m. in Fellowship Hall  
We're ushering in the season with family fun!

⇒ 2:00-2:30 pm: **Jesus Birthday Party** (FREE ADMISSION)

⇒ 2:30-4 pm: **Gingerbread House Challenge**, \$20 per family, bring candy from home to make your house "sweeter" than the rest; prizes awarded! Don't forget your glue gun. Judging at 3:45 p.m. Register online at [www.fpcmoorestown.org](http://www.fpcmoorestown.org).



### Youth Mission Trip Opportunities

Registration is OPEN for three youth mission trips:

January 24-26, 2020 High School Retreat  
(Lake Champion, NY)

March 13-15, 2020 Middle School Retreat  
(Lake Champion, NY)

July 5-10, 2020 High School Service Trip  
(Brooklyn, NY)

**Memory Verse**  
The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God

- Mark 1: 1

For Families and Children:  
**Holly Ascianto**  
856-235-1688, x116  
[hascianto@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:hascianto@fpcmoorestown.org)

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

### "Songs of the Church" Concert Set for Sunday, November 17th

First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown presents another Special Events Concert under the direction of Music Director Joel Krott, on **Sunday, November 17, 2019** at 6:30 p.m. Enjoy a multi-generational expression and celebration of singing to God featuring 13 soloists, including many of our FPC youth, and three accompanists. The building is handicapped accessible and a free will offering will be received.

### New 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, Nov. 13 (6-7 pm)

Ravioli with Marinara, Mac & Cheese, Sloppy Joes, Rice with Vegetables, Bread, and Beverages

### Thanksgiving Break

A reminder that there will be NO Family Dinner, Kingdom Kids, Crossing Zone, or Flock on **Wednesday, November 27**. Have a blessed and restful Thanksgiving holiday.



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[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

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

### EDUCATION HOUR

**November 10, 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

- Sanctified Sisters- (FH, Nov. 10 & 17)
- 3 C's (Lounge)

"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](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

November 10-17, 2019

### GRACE NOTES / FPCM Ways of the Week November 10-17, 2019



**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; Romans 15: 7

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

**Thank you to everyone who participated in  
The Church Has Left the Building. What a day!**

### Thanksgiving Postcards

As we've often done in past years, included in worship bulletins Nov. 17 will be Thanksgiving postcards. Fill out the name and address of someone you are grateful for and wish to tell, and place postcards in the offering plate.

**Chick Fil A Dine & Donate for Step by Step Preschool**  
Wed. Nov. 13 ~ 5-8 pm  
Chick Fil A Centerton Square

### Devotional Guide, Vol. 4

Volume 4 in our series illustrating the Ways is now available! This 5-week daily devotional guide created by Dan Wonneberger includes scriptures and illustrations for Ways 16-20. 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. Complete 5-book set is available; suggested donation \$50.

### Deacons Thanksgiving Ministry

**Food Baskets** — The Deacons are looking for volunteers to help with pick-up (7:45 am), packing (8:15 am) and delivery (9 am) of the Thanksgiving Food Baskets on **Saturday, Nov. 23**. Sign-up sheets are posted on the table in Miller Commons and in the Narthex. Please contact Deacon Helen Dominy at 856-235-5594 or [rmdsrillc@aol.com](mailto:rmdsrillc@aol.com).

**Turkey Donations** — The week of Thanksgiving, the Deacons deliver donated turkeys to "Your Food Shelf" in Camden. Please bring your contribution to the church **no later than Sunday, Nov. 24**. Mark turkeys with "DEACONS" and put them in one of the church freezers. Please contact Deacon Helen Dominy at 856-235-5594 or [rmdsrillc@aol.com](mailto:rmdsrillc@aol.com).

### Longest Night Service

**Sunday, December 8 (7 pm)**

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

### NOTE

Pastor Stuart will be away at the Fall Prayer Retreat Nov. 19-22 at Holy Cross Monastery. For pastoral care concerns please contact [Kelly LePenske](mailto:kellylepenske@gmail.com) at 856-235-1688.

### Angel Tree

Sign ups are **Nov. 17th and 24th** for our Angel Tree to help provide Christmas gifts for children of incarcerated parents, as well as the Christian Caring Center which provides gifts to homeless communities in Burlington County. Return Angel Tree gifts wrapped *with the Angel tree label attached*, and Christian Caring Center gifts *unwrapped with the label attached* by **Sunday, Dec. 1**. Angel Tree is coordinated by our Deacons. For info contact: Steve Connlain ([sconnlain@gmail.com](mailto:sconnlain@gmail.com)) or (856) 425-5043.

### Christmas Toy Drive

Annette Emerson is conducting the annual toy drive for the Presbytery 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.

### Order 2019 Youth Choir Concert CDs

Beginning this **Sunday, Nov. 3**, orders are being taken for Youth Choir Concert CD's for \$15.00 per CD. MP3 recordings are also available. This beautiful concert was held on May 19, 2019 and featured the Choristers, Junior Choir and Chapel Choirs. Orders can be placed in the Commons Lobby Sunday, Nov. 3 and Sunday, Nov. 10. Envelopes are also available in the church office. Orders will be available in 3-4 weeks, perfect for holiday gift giving.

**Order Holiday Poinsettias November 10, 17, 24**



### Adult Ed Returns Nov. 10 with Sanctified Sisters

—**Nov. 10 & 17: NEW: Sanctified Sisters.** Don't miss this rich 2-week series on the history of women in the Protestant church, taught by Dr. Jenny Legath. Learn how the deaconess movement created hundreds of new institutions within Protestantism and created new roles for women within the church. Join us as we celebrate the release of Jenny's book, *Sanctified Sisters*, and explore our roots.

— **3 C's Class** (Coffee, Conversation & Christ), 9:45 a.m. Stop in the Lounge as we dive into Scripture and apply its wisdom to our everyday lives. Teens and adults.

### Tuesday, November 12: Meet the Missionaries

On **Nov. 12th** at 7:00 pm a number of missionaries will be visiting with the Missions Team. There will be no business meeting that evening so that we can hear the stories of the work these incredible individuals are doing in the world. All congregants are invited to attend. Please RSVP with [Linda Jagiela](mailto:LindaJagiela@gmail.com). Room 8.

### "Own Your Church"

After events at the church, each group is kindly asked to clean up afterwards—straighten furniture, pick up items or food, turn off lights and tidy the kitchen (dry and put away dishes, take towels home to wash, wipe down counters.) If you've made coffee, kindly clean the coffee maker. Please LABEL all food in the refrigerator or freezer and take leftovers home. Thanks!

### Deacon Sunday is Nov. 17

Next week is Deacon Sunday and the Deacons ask that you prayerfully consider gifts to their Deacons Fund. Our Board of Deacons reaches out to our congregation and community with local benevolence.

Deacons funds support efforts to feed local families through holiday food baskets and gift cards, IHN support, Blanket Sunday, assistance and other ministries. Give online at [www.fpcmoorestown.org](http://www.fpcmoorestown.org) or designate "Deacon Fund" on the memo line of checks to FPC. Look for special blue envelopes in offering boxes and the pews.



### THANK YOU for Your Generous Giving

On October 20th, Consecration Sunday, FPC church members dedicated their *2020 Estimate of Giving Cards*, to assist church leaders in preparing accurate budget projections. Cards have been mailed to those who could not attend and are also [available online](#). Pick one up at the Welcome Desk or church office. We kindly ask that all Estimates be turned in by **Nov. 17**. If you did not receive an Estimate card, please let the office know. As of November 8, we have received 195 pledges totaling \$1,493,800.

### Please Sign In

*Members and Guests:* Please take a moment to sign the Friendship pads or sign-in sheets each week so we can accurately record worship attendance and welcome worship visitors.

### Looking for Caregiver

Help support small group ministries by providing childcare for toddlers. Paid position, 2 hrs/wk. Wed. mornings from 9-11 a.m. at church. Contact Kelly LePenske in the church office 856-235-1688.

### Sunday Altar Flowers

Now is the time to reserve Sunday flower donation dates for the rest of this year and for 2020. Vases are \$40 each and two vases are available each Sunday. Reservations are being taken now for next year. To reserve your special dates, contact Rumi Sinunu at [rts319@gmail.com](mailto:rts319@gmail.com) or (856) 266-4047. What better way to commemorate loved ones or special dates in your life.

### UrbanPromise Help

The mission at UrbanPromise is to equip Camden's children and young adults with the skills necessary for academic achievement, life management, spiritual growth, and Christian leadership. If you would like to help show the staff how much they are appreciated, stop by the table in the Commons lobby or call [Jane Murphy](mailto:JaneMurphy@gmail.com) at 856-427-0618.

### Alternative Gift Market

The Alternative Gift Market will be open Nov. 24-Dec. 24—**catalog coming soon!** Alternate Gifts allow you to donate 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:LindaJagiela@gmail.com).

### November Session Meeting November 26