

# FAMILY MINISTRY

There will be no Youth events or Family Dinner on Wed. November 27

## 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).



## Sam Scheibe, Composer

OUR ORGAN PRELUDE THIS MORNING, composed by **Sam Scheibe**, is being heard for the first time. It is based on the Norwegian folk melody used in today's offertory. Sam, 20, has participated in our music program for years singing with the Chapel Choir and two touring choirs. Currently, he is studying at Westminster Choir College and enriching our program serving as music intern. Sam is broadly talented and an accomplished pianist, percussionist, vocalist, conductor and composer. We are grateful for his addition to the riches of traditional church music.

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

- Mark 1: 1

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

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

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



Tonight, at **6:30 p.m.**, come and enjoy "Songs of the Church", a concert of sacred solo repertoire presented by many of our young singers as well as our accomplished professionals. Every song is written to the glory of God and will be rendered by His faithful servants, young and old. Most of the singers are 18 years old, or younger. A full church affirms these children and teens in their leadership and place here. An empty church has a less wholesome message. The concert will be held in the Sanctuary.

## 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. 20 (6-7 pm)

Roast Pork, Meatballs, Baked Penne, Roasted Potatoes & Green Beans, 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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(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 17, 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, 2-part series concludes)
- 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 17-24, 2019

## GRACE NOTES / FPCM Ways of the Week November 17-24, 2019

FIND STRENGTH  
IN BELONGING

**20. FIND STRENGTH IN BELONGING.** At FPCM, you're loved and valued. Claim us as your family. Rather than withdrawing, allow struggles and disappointments to deepen your sense of belonging. Pray for chances to bring healing to relationships. Please be patient! God isn't yet finished with us or with you. - Romans 14: 7-9; Acts 2: 46; Matthew 12: 25

WHILE ATTENDING A CHURCH in South Carolina the sense of belonging was full of congregational emotion as they sang together week after week at the close of each service "There's a sweet, sweet spirit in this place and I know that it's the spirit of the Lord (our Hymnal page 291)"

Research studies reveal a sense of belonging to a greater community improves your motivation, health, and happiness. A sense of belonging is a human need, just like the need for food and shelter. Belonging is where we feel secure, supported, accepted, and included. Feeling that you belong is most important in seeing value in life.

When we first feel a sense of belonging it is as a child, belonging to our earthly family. God's intent is we develop into His disciples knowing there's a place for all God's children in His church. In God's house there's a place for each one of us to belong. There's an old but true saying: "To make a friend, be a friend." Similarly, to receive acceptance, give acceptance. Jesus taught, "Give, and it will be given to you" ([Luke 6:38](#)). When you grant others a sense of belonging, you will feel a greater sense of belonging yourself.

Acts 2:46 reflects on the fellowship of believers, 'Everyday they continued to meet together...they broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying favor of all the people.' That daily fellowship guided the early church in developing a belonging community.

In our own church we are offered many opportunities to embrace belongingness, almost every day of the week— through children, teen and adult education sessions, Wednesday's morning men's Bible study, evening family suppers, choir opportunities, participation service by flower delivery, Deacon food basket ministry, IHN engagement as well as various committees. Be quick to serve others, for in giving of your time and talents, you will receive and foster your strength in belonging.

It takes strength to choose to belong. When you see your connection to others, you begin to know that all God's people have joys and struggles. As part of the church family, in experiencing that sense of belonging, you are not alone.

Elder Rebecca Castellanos

**TONIGHT: Special Event "Songs of the Church", a concert of sacred solo repertoire presented by young singers from FPCM (6:30 pm)**

### TODAY is Deacon Sunday

Nov. 17 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.

#### Thanksgiving Postcards

TODAY 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 or mail at home.

### Deacons Thanksgiving Ministry

**Turkey Donations** — The week of Thanksgiving, the Deacons deliver donated turkeys to "Your Food Shelf" in Camden. Please bring turkeys 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).

**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).

### Tonight: Special Concert

**Sunday, Nov. 17 at 6:30 p.m.**, come and enjoy "Songs of the Church", a concert of sacred solo repertoire presented by many of our young singers as well as our accomplished professionals. Every song is written to the glory of God and will be rendered by His faithful servants, young and old. Most of the singers are 18 years old or younger. A full church affirms these children and teens in their leadership and place here. Raise your voices to the Lord!

### Devotional Guide, Vol. 5

Volume 5 in our series illustrating the Ways will soon be available. This 5-week daily devotional guide created by Dan Wonneberger includes scriptures and illustrations for Ways 20-25. Suggested donation \$10; proceeds support our prayer ministry. Get yours in the Commons Lobby, church office, or text "\$10 pray" to 84321. Complete 5-book set is available; suggested donation \$50.

### Shop the 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 Holiday Poinsettias (\$13)**  
**Orders due by Nov. 24**  
[Forms in Connections](#)



### Order 2019 Youth Choir Concert CDs

Orders are currently being taken for Youth Choir Concert CD's for \$15.00 per CD. MP3 recordings are also available. This beautiful choral concert was held on May 19, 2019 and featured the Choristers, Junior Choir and Chapel Choirs. Order envelopes can be picked up in the Commons Lobby or church office, and also [ordered online](#) from our website. Orders will be available in 3-4 weeks, perfect for holiday gift giving!

### 2020 Estimates of Giving

If you have not yet turned in your 2020 Estimate of Giving card, we kindly ask that you do so by **Nov. 24**. On Oct. 20, church members dedicated their *2020 Estimate of Giving Cards*, to assist church leaders in preparing accurate budget projections. Cards were mailed to those who could not attend and are also [available online](#). Pick one up at the Welcome Desk or church office. As of November 15, we have received 198 pledges totaling \$1,500,000.

### November Session Meeting November 26

#### Adult Ed Round-Up

— **Sanctified Sisters** (ends Nov. 17). This two-part class taught by Dr. Jenny Legath tells the history of women in the Protestant church, the deaconess movement and new roles for women within the church. Copies of Jenny's book *Sanctified Sisters* are available in Commons Lobby.

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

### Alternative Gift Market

The Alternative Gift Market will be open Nov. 24-Dec. 24—catalog coming soon! 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](#) or [Jen Allen](#) or outside Missionwares.

### Pastor Stuart Away

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](#) at 856-235-1688.

### 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 [christine.catanella@gmail.com](mailto:christine.catanella@gmail.com). Please note meetings that week may shift to alternate rooms.

### December Lunch Bunch Thursday, Dec. 5 ~ 12 noon

### Friday Nighters Christmas Dinner & Carol Sing

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

### 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 one speaks to you? Sign up with Jan Martin at [jmartin@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:jmartin@fpcmoorestown.org) or (856) 235-1688, Ext. 133.

### 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 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. *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.*

### 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

### 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](mailto: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.