

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.



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)

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

- Mark 1: 1

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

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

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!



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.

Save The Date: Kids and Youth Christmas Parties

- ⇒ Wednesday, Dec. 11: Kingdom Kids
- ⇒ Wednesday, Dec. 11: Crossing Zone
- ⇒ Wednesday, Dec. 11: Flock
- ⇒ Sunday, Dec. 15: Wave

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sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org

Kelly LePenske
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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](#).



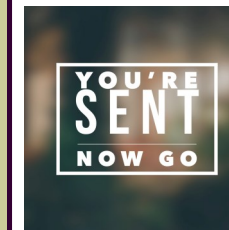
Connections



First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

Nov. 24-Dec. 1, 2019

GRACE NOTES / FPCM Ways of the Week November 24-December 1, 2019



20. YOU'RE SENT, NOW GO. We're blessed to be a blessing. God intends to use you to bless, heal, restore, and liberate a dark and hurting world. We're here for others: in our families and our community and In the world. Go to the need. Live missionally.

— Scripture: Genesis 12: 2, 3; Matthew 5: 14 – 16; John 20: 21

AS CHRISTIANS LIVING IN suburban New Jersey, this Way of the Week can be confusing. The idea that God intends for us to be His hands to bless, heal, restore, and liberate a dark and hurting world can feel so distant from our day-to-day reality. How can God use me to bless and liberate the world while I live out my daily routine of work, family, and church?

Sometimes it feels easier to send money or things. Our church does amazing ministry through our missions and Deacons contributions, and projects such as Operation Christmas Child, Angel Tree, and Thanksgiving baskets. I know many of our church members sponsor children through Urban Promise in Camden, HOM in Haiti and many other countries. These things are important and they have an impact for Christ. Keep doing them. Do more! However, I'm not sure that's all Jesus meant when he called us to be the "light of the world" (Matthew 5: 14).

So what does it look like to go? Sometimes God may be calling us to physically go, joining the church on a mission outreach to Haiti, Mexico City, Honduras, or Denmark. Trips like this had a profound impact on my faith as both a teenager and an adult. If you have never participated in one, I urge you to step out in faith and join. You will return changed. However, more often than not, I believe God sends us into our own daily lives to be His light to the people we encounter.

This week, I challenge you to open your eyes to the people God puts in your path. Volunteer to make a meal or stay overnight with our IHN guests next week. Be the one to notice the co-worker who is just not him- or herself. Brighten a stranger's day with a smile or a kind word. When your child, spouse, or roommate comes home upset, give them the gift of your time and your full attention. Offer to pray for them. Better yet, pray with them in that moment. Sometimes, transforming the world starts by seeing the world through God's eyes. Now go!

Elder Jenny (Wittmer) Revucky

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

Thanksgiving Postcards

Last week in worship (Nov. 17) Thanksgiving postcards were included in bulletins. If you did not get the chance to fill out a postcard, including name and address of someone you are grateful for and wish to tell, cards are available in the Commons Lobby and in the Commons. Place postcards in the offering plate or mail at home.

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 your copy in the Commons Lobby, church office, or text "\$10 pray" to 84321. Complete 5-book set is available; suggested donation \$50.

Deacon Sunday

Nov. 17 was Deacon Sunday and blue envelopes are in the pews and envelope boxes to support the Deacons Fund. Our Board of Deacons reaches out to our congregation and community with local benevolence, supporting efforts to feed local families through holiday food baskets and gift cards, IHN support, Blanket Sunday, applications for assistance and many other ministries. Give online at www.fpcmoorestown.org or designate "Deacon Fund" on the memo line of checks to FPC.



Advent Devotional Guide

As part of "Devote" in our 4-tiered emphasis "Connect. Devote. Serve. Worship" Advent devotional guides are available this week in the Commons Lobby to guide one through the Advent Season. The First Sunday of Advent is **Dec. 1.**

Shop for the Angel Tree

Sign ups conclude **Nov. 24th** for our Angel Tree to 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. INFO: 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 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.

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.

Order Holiday

Poinsettias (\$13)

Orders due by Nov. 24

Forms in Connections



Order 2019 Youth Choir Concert CDs

Orders are 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 you may also [order online](#) from our website. Orders will be available in 3-4 weeks, perfect for holiday gift giving!

Turkey Donations

Turkey Donations are due by today, Sunday, Nov. 24. The week of Thanksgiving, the Deacons deliver donated turkeys to "Your Food Shelf" in Camden. Mark turkeys with "DEACONS" and put them in one of the church freezers. Please contact Deacon Helen Dominy at 856-235-5594; rmdsrillc@aol.com.

2020 Estimates of Giving

If you have not yet turned in your 2020 Estimate of Giving card, we kindly ask that you do so. 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 Nov. 22, we have received 214 pledges totaling \$1,581,800.

Manger Sunday Coming Sunday, December 15

Adult Education

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.

Coming in Advent: Ruth Stotsenburg 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. We'll meet in Fellowship Hall each Sunday, 12/1 through 12/22. All are welcome!

Alternative Gift Market

The Alternative Gift Market will be coming soon — watch for the catalog outside Missionwares. Alternative 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](#) outside Missionwares.

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. Please note meetings that week may shift to alternate rooms.



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.

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.

