

FAMILY MINISTRY

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

Kingdom Kids and Crossing Zone

Kids and youth groups ended for the season with their Christmas parties on Wednesday, Dec. 11. **Kingdom Kids & Crossing Zone will resume on Wed. February 5, 2020.**

Have a great winter break!



High School Retreat

January 24-26, 2020 ~ Lake Champion, NY

One of the best weekends of the year to pull back from every day life and reconnect with God. This weekend has been a formative one for students from our Church for years.

Flock and Wave Schedule

Wave ends for 2019 with its Christmas party on Dec. 15 — Flock Christmas Party was rescheduled for Wed. Dec. 18. **Wave will resume Jan. 12; Flock on Jan. 15.**

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:
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For Families and Youth:
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CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



Christmas Eve Worship Schedule Tuesday, December 24, 2019

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

Children's Teachers Meeting

Sunday, January 26, 2020

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.

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Rev. Stuart Spencer
Pastor/Head of Staff
sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org

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WORSHIP HOURS

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

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

EDUCATION HOUR

**December 15, 2019
9:45-10:45 a.m.**

Nursery: Preschool Wing

NOTE: Classes for 3-4 Yrs., K-1st, 2nd-3rd, Grade 4 and Grades 5-6 will meet in **Room 3-4** for a special Sunday School event

Middle School: 3rd Floor

Adult Education

- ⇒ 3 C's (Lounge)
- ⇒ *The Story of Advent* (Fellowship Hall, Ruth Stotsenburg)

“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 15-22, 2019

GRACE NOTES / FPCM Ways of the Week December 15-22, 2019



24. TELL YOUR STORY. God has done and is doing something unique in your life. Has God answered a prayer, provided help or blessed you? Share it. Ask God for opportunities to share your faith in Christ by words and deeds.

(Scriptures: Luke 8: 39; Psalm 107:2; Acts 1:8)

THERE'S A TRUISM THAT GOES something like this: When a person asks in passing, “How are you?” or “How’s it going?”, the last thing they want to hear in reply is how you truly are or how it’s really going. It’s also likely the inquiry recipient doesn’t care or want to say how they truly are. This scenario doesn’t happen just in public venues like on a public sidewalk or in a shopping center. It can happen in church and even in your own home. Just think of when you might have wanted to say something about yourself, but instead reduced your participation to one-word replies, short neutral statements, or silence.

Telling your story isn’t easy. When Paul travelled to emerging churches to tell his story, he risked arrest, imprisonment, and even death. When you open up about yourself, you may not be facing such dire consequences, but you may still feel vulnerable and think that maybe you’re making others uncomfortable. But at the same time, you open yourself to an opportunity to share, to teach, to learn, to support and maybe even to be supported.

It’s providential that this Way falls close to Christmas. As Dr. Bruce Main recently preached to us, God tells the best stories and there’s none better than the story of Christ’s birth, life, death and resurrection. In giving us the best story to tell, He lets us make it part of our own story while making us part of His greater story.

So, what’s my story? Briefly, New Jersey is my 17th home, I’m a 38-year cancer survivor, I’ve served as Elder five times at four different churches, Marcia and I will have been married 37 years this December, my good days far outnumber not-as-good days as I deal with Parkinson’s Disease, I have two daughters and four grandchildren and First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown is my 17th church home. For the long version, just ask me how I am.

Elder Michael Jones

Tag the church in your Facebook posts from our events. Share it!

Dec. 15 Special Meeting

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown, New Jersey, has called a special meeting of the congregation. This meeting will be held Sunday, December 15, 2019, immediately following the 8:30 a.m. worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to elect an Elder to fill a vacancy in the Class of 2021 and to elect a Deacon to fulfill a vacancy in the Class of 2022. No other business may be brought before the congregation other than the preceding item.

Ann McBride, Clerk of Session

**Advent Devotional Guide**

Pick up your free Advent devotional guides in the Commons Lobby to guide through the Advent Season.

Gift Wrapping Fundraiser

Bring your gifts to church and skilled wrappers will get them all wrapped while you relax! Take some of stress of the season away by allowing us to do the wrapping. Put Post-It notes on your gifts listing the To and From. Bring your own wrapping paper or select from our wide assortment. Just let us know in advance that you are planning to get it wrapped and we will schedule wrappers! Suggested donation: \$25 per tub or \$1 per gift. Email misions@fpcmoorestown.org.

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.

Manger Sunday

On Manger Sunday **Dec. 15** we will present our manger gifts as the Magi did so long ago. Gifts will be donated that day to Oaks Integrated Care for struggling families to "shop from" and to use for their own families. During worship, individuals will bring their gifts, as well as their tithes and offerings, forward amidst beloved carols of the season. Bring gifts **unwrapped**. [See our website for a list of suggested items.](#)

**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.



The Mittens on the Mitten Tree were made by members of the Knitting Network and will be given to needy children. You may add items to keep hand warm!

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](#) 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](#) at www.fpcmoorestown.org. [Read a letter](#) from Pastor Stuart about our year ...

Adult Education

- **3 C's Class** (Coffee, Conversation & Christ), 9:45 a.m. in the Lounge
- **Advent Series:** 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. **ROOM 3-4**, Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22.

Alternative Gift Market

The Alternative Gift Market is here. Pick up a 2019 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](#) or [Jen Allen](#).

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

Write Grace Notes

Beginning **Sunday, Dec. 29 (5th Sunday)**, 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 TODAY with Jan Martin in the church office at jmartin@fpcmoorestown.org or (856) 235-1688, Ext. 133.

**Christmas Basket Love**

Thank you to our Deacons who prepared and delivered generous Christmas Food Baskets this past weekend to those in need.

How Can You Serve Your Church?

The Nominations Committee is currently seeking individuals to staff the three Boards of the church: Elders, Deacons and Trustees. See insert in *Connections* today and pray about where God may be calling you. [Sign up online!](#)

Chili Cook-Off
Proceeds to benefit
Mission Trips
Sunday, January 26
Noon-3:00 p.m.

January Inquirers Class

Interested in learning more about us? You are invited to the Winter Inquirers class, a 6-week series that begins on **Sunday, Jan. 19**.

Classes will be held at 9:45 a.m. Sunday mornings, and introduce various ministries at FPCM. Share and receive information on the meaning of membership in the Presbyterian Church. The group will have a lunch with Session on Feb. 23. Those who desire to join First Presbyterian Church will be welcomed as new members in March during worship. Child care is available. Reserve your spot with Alison at (856) 235-1688; amackey@fpcmoorestown.org or **sign up online today** at www.fpcmoorestown.org. Questions? Contact Alison Mackey or Kelly LePenske at klepenske@fpcmoorestown.org.

**Holiday Worship Schedule
Tuesday, December 24**

- 4:00 pm Family Service
- 6:00 pm Family Service
- 8:30 pm Communion Service
- 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

**Ways Devotional Vol. 5
Now Available****Dan Wonneberger News**

Dan Wonneberger, Director of Family Ministries and Youth, has announced that he has accepted a position as Student Ministry Director of the Redeemer Church (ECO) in Snellville, GA (<https://redeemerpc.com/>). Relocating moves the Wonnebergers closer to Dan's family and allows Dan the chance to use his considerable gifts in youth ministry, preaching and teaching. We are grateful for Dan's years of committed service to our congregation, and excited for opportunities that await him. Our Personnel Committee is already at work to provide leadership to our students while we hire a new person for this position. Dan, Ashley and Adelyn's last Sunday will be February 2, 2020 and we will have a reception for him between services. Monetary gifts can be sent to the church office (ATTN: Norm Vandergrift) — by either cash or check. Checks should be made out to **First Presbyterian Church** and MUST have "Gift for Dan Wonneberger" on the memo line. *NOTE: This contribution will not be included as part of your 2019 or 2020 giving to the church and is not tax-deductible.* Checks are due to the church office by **noon Friday, Jan. 31**.