

# FAMILY MINISTRY

**There will be NO Sunday School or Nursery Care on Dec. 22 or 29 (5th Sunday)**

## 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. January 29th.



## Flock and Wave Winter Break

Flock and Wave groups ended for 2019 with their Christmas party on Dec. 18 and Dec. 15. **Wave** will resume Jan. 12, 2020. **Flock** will resume Jan. 15.

## 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.

**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 Ascianto**  
856-235-1688, x116  
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For Families and Youth:  
**Dan Wonneberger**  
856-745-6596 (cell/text)  
[dwnonneberger@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:dwnonneberger@fpcmoorestown.org)

## 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



## Martin Luther King Day of Service Event: Monday, January 20, 2020

9-11 am: Trinity Episcopal Church (207 W. Main Street, Moorestown)

**Registration Required by 1/15/20: (856) 235-0811 with Deacon Leslie Mazzacano**

"Happy Birthday Party" - bring items for birthday boxes (cake mix, frosting, candles, plates, napkins, small gift) to assemble and bless birthday boxes to donate to Catholic Charities; enjoy birthday cake for Dr. King! Sponsored by the Moorestown Ministerium; no charge but registration is required.



## Moravian Lovefeast Concert Sunday, January 5

ENJOY A MUSICAL CONCLUSION to the Christmas season as our choirs join forces in the highly historical worship form which involves choral and congregational singing of seasonal music and the serving of a simple symbolic meal (in the Sanctuary) which symbolizes our unity in the newborn King. A freewill offering will be taken, and childcare is provided. Concert begins at 7:00 p.m.

**First Presbyterian Church**  
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**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

**December 22, 2019  
9:45-10:45 a.m.**

No Sunday School or  
Nursery Care for:

- Sunday, Dec. 22
- Sunday, Dec. 29 (5th Sunday)

Adult Education (12/22 only)

⇒ The Story of Advent  
(Ruth Stotsenburg)  
concludes; Fellowship  
Hall

"Connections" is published  
weekly for Sunday worship **and**  
**every two weeks in the**  
**summer.** Please submit infor-  
mation **by noon Tuesdays** to:  
Editor Jan Martin  
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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 22-29, 2019**

## GRACE NOTES / FPC Moorestown Ways of the Week December 22-29, 2019



**25. REJOICE ALWAYS.** The Kingdom of God is a party! Let healthy laughter fill our meetings, our meals, and even our worship. Allow the joy of our faith be clearly evident in our speech and on our faces.

- Scriptures: Luke 15: 22-24; Philippians 4: 4; Proverbs 17: 22

PHILIPPIANS HAS ALWAYS BEEN the book in the Bible that I turn to for instructions in how to rejoice. It is a book of encouragement for me. You may ask why I need to learn about joy when the word JOY is everywhere this season. Yes, it is the Christmas season with cards that wish me joy, and advertisers who request that I buy their goods to give gifts of joy to others, and jewelry has the word joy imprinted by gems or by metal. So many places for joy to be included.

However, the joy that Paul describes in Philippians is being joyful in the presence of the Lord, or in a group of fellow believers who express joy in gathering together and in praising God for His loving care. In my small concordance at the back of my Bible, joy takes up 3 finely-printed columns. It includes rejoice, joyful, enjoy, and joyous along with plain joy. Wow! Many of the references concluded with the words " ... that your joy may be complete." That creates some thinking on our part, doesn't it?

Joy can take many forms: a baby who takes a first step, grandparents showing love, a gorgeous sunset, a new job you get, a baptism, a beautiful flower – and so many more. God is very generous in giving us much joy in ordinary things.

So what can we do with joy? Sing a song? Yes. Give hugs away? Sure. Dance? If you can. Praise the Lord? For sure! Pass it on to others who might need it? Absolutely.

The Lord has come. We remember that right now, but we know that the story doesn't end with Him as a baby. He has a hard road ahead of Him, but He is triumphant in God's plan. Glory be to His holy name. Halleluiah, Amen.

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!*

- Philippians 4: 4

Barbara Lewis

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

### Dec. 15 Special Meeting

At a special meeting of the congregation on Sunday, December 15, the following vacancies were nominated, approved and installed:

**Elder:** Jim Wiggans  
**Deacon:** Diane Samuel

Pastor Spencer also made an announcement that the APNC will now be redirecting its efforts to call an ordained youth pastor instead of an Associate Pastor, and that Session approved for Pastoral Associate Kelly LePenske to be retained in her current position while she is pursuing ordination. [A letter from the pastor](#) was mailed recently sharing this exciting news ...

### Preschool Open House!

**Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020**  
6:30-8:00 pm  
Register for 2019-20 classes

### Preschool Open House!

Registration for the 2020-21 school year *for current preschool families* will be open from January 6, 2020 until January 21, 2020 when we will start accepting registration from families not currently at Step by Step. Registration is first come, first served and payment must be made in order to secure a spot for the 2020-21 school year. After filling out the application and sending in payment, you will be notified via email that we have your paperwork. We do our best to accommodate your first choice but this is not always possible. If we are not able to accommodate a special request, Preschool Director Amy Delgado will reach out to you prior to depositing your registration. Otherwise, registration money is **non-refundable**. For information or questions please contact Director Amy Delgado at [adelgado@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:adelgado@fpcmoorestown.org) or visit [www.fpcmoorestown.org/step-by-step-preschool](http://www.fpcmoorestown.org/step-by-step-preschool).

### 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 [Norm Vandergrift](#) at 856-235-1688, Ext. 112.
- ◆ **Christmas Green Offering**— directly aids our FPCM church program areas (month of December, also in boxed sets)
- ◆ **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](http://www.fpcmoorestown.org). [Read a letter](#) from Pastor Stuart about our year ...
- ◆ **2019 Pledge Commitments**— Please remember to fulfill your commitment for your 2019 pledge by year's end. For questions or stock gifts call the office at (856) 235-1688.

### 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](mailto: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!

### January Break

There will be no Lunch Bunch or Friday Nighters for January.

### Christmas Worship 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 (all services in the Sanctuary)

### Christmas Day Worship December 25 ~ 9:30 am

### 5th Sunday (combined worship) December 29 ~ 9:30 am

### Adult Education

- ◆ **Advent Series:** Ruth Stotsenburg concludes "Are You Ready?: The Story of Advent." Travel through time with key biblical figures who experienced the event of Jesus' birth. Unearth the meaning of Advent and how "the 4 P's" shaped the story of Christ. Ends Dec. 22.
- ◆ No Adult Education on Dec. 29 (5th Sunday).

### Alternative Gift Market

The Alternative Gift Market will be open until December 24th, perfect for those last-minute gifts. View the [2019 catalog](#) outside Missionwares and on our website. Alternate Gifts allow donations to worthy causes in the name of the gift recipient. INFO: Contact [Linda Jagiela](#) or [Jen Allen](#).

### Extra Poinsettias

We have several extra poinsettias available. If you would like one, please take one to brighten someone's day. Poinsettias are in Room 8.



### PW Winter Gathering

All women of the church are invited to the PW Winter Gathering on Monday, January 13, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Guest Speaker: Pastoral Associate Kelly LePenske presents "Living the Psalms" followed by a soup lunch. Warm your soul and your body. For info contact Susan Masiko at (856) 630-3253 or [susan.masiko@comcast.net](mailto:susan.masiko@comcast.net).

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

### 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](mailto:amackey@fpcmoorestown.org). or **sign up online today** at [www.fpcmoorestown.org](http://www.fpcmoorestown.org). Questions? Contact Alison Mackey or Kelly LePenske at [klepenske@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:klepenske@fpcmoorestown.org).

### Ways Devotional Vol. 5 Now Available

### 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!](#)



### Dan Wonneberger News

Dan Wonneberger, Director of Family Ministries and Youth, has accepted a position as Student Ministry Director of Redeemer Church (ECO) in Snellville, GA. Dan's last Sunday with us will be February 2, 2020, when he will preach both services. During the Education hour that morning, we will have a reception to honor Dan and his impact at FPC Moorestown. 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.** You may also bring your gift on the day of the farewell event. Checks given that day must be made out directly to Dan.

### IHN (Homeless Support) Here January 12-15, 2020 Volunteers Needed!