

FAMILY MINISTRY

There will be NO Sunday School or Nursery Care on Dec. 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 Asciutto
856-235-1688, x116
hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org

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

TONIGHT: Moravian Lovefeast Concert (Sunday, January 5)

Enjoy a musical conclusion to the Christmas season as our choirs join forces in this highly historical worship form which involves choral and congregational singing of seasonal music and the serving of a simple, symbolic meal (in the Sanctuary). Choristers (Grades 5-8) and Chapel Choir (Grades 9-12) team with the Adult Choir for a triumphant concert of exhilarating music. A free will offering will be taken, and childcare is provided.



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.



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

Kelly LePenske
Pastoral Associate
klepenske@fpcmoorestown.org

WORSHIP HOURS

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

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

EDUCATION HOUR

December 29, 2019

9:45-10:45 a.m.

No Sunday School, Adult Education or Nursery Care today (5th Sunday).

January 5, 2020

Sunday School resumes.
There will be no Adult Education

January 12, 2020

Adult Education resumes

"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](#).



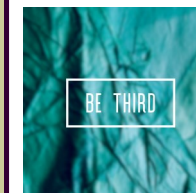
Connections



First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

Dec. 29-Jan. 5, 2020

GRACE NOTES / FPC Moorestown Ways of the Week December 29-January 5, 2020



BE THIRD. God is first, others are second, and you're third. Don't just think about your own interests, but be interested in others. Don't think less of yourself, just think of yourself less and others more.
(Read: Philippians 2: 4, John 13: 14, 15)

THIS WEEK, THE FIRST WEEK OF 2020, we begin our third journey through the 25 Ways of First Presbyterian Church. It's almost a year since we launched living into a Way of the Week. I'm delighted by your embrace of these biblically-rooted statements of culture. I frequently hear members and staff referring to different Ways. I observe that nearly all of our regularly gatherings — committee meetings, small groups, staff meetings, rehearsals — all start with a 3-5 minute reflection on the Way of the Week. Most importantly, I see us changing, growing and maturing in Christ.

You should know that this culture work has gained the notice of Christian leaders and pastors. Jean-Luc Krieg, one of our mission partners who is serving Jesus in Mexico City, has translated the 25 Ways for use in training pastors. A retired Presbyterian minister who was once the pastor of Sean McDermott, head coach of the Buffalo Bills football team, shared our Way, Rest and Reflect, with the coach in an email.

So let's keep at it; and let's start with a virtue that God loves, humility. In James 4: 6, 7 we learn that, "And he [God] gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.' So humble yourselves before God." I'm certain that God hates pride so much because pride always turns me inward to self and away from God and others. One writer helpfully defines humility, 'Absolute humility would consist of a state of complete freedom from myself, freedom from all claims that my defects of character now weigh so heavily upon me. Perfect humility would be, in all times and places, to find and to do the will of God.'

As you lean into this Way this week, give thought to some questions. One, what aspect of yourself do you need greater freedom? What's getting in your way of considering others? How are you seeking to know and do God's will? Is this even a consideration for you? I'd like you to pray, whenever it is that you pray, and ask God to direct you to others you can help, encourage, serve and support.

Be third this week and throughout 2020—for the purposes and glory of God!

Stuart Spencer, Pastor

Ken Peacock Lecture Series: January 24-25, 2020

Happy New Year from the staff and congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown!

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

Help Write Grace Notes

Beginning **Sunday, Dec. 29 (5th Sunday)**, we will begin our third round of the 25 Ways as we affirm the focal points of our church culture here at First Presbyterian Church. 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? We want to hear from you! SIGN UP TODAY with Jan Martin in the church office at (856) 235-1688, Ext. 133 or jmartin@fpcmoorestown.org.

January Break

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

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 or visit www.fpcmoorestown.org/step-by-step-preschool.

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 (throughout 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. [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.

SPECIAL NOTE

To help us meet our expenses for 2019, offerings must be post-marked or delivered to the church **by December 31**. Check must be dated in 2019. [You can also give online](#) by **December 31**. Please contact the [Financial Office](#) with questions (856) 235-1688, Ext. 112.

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.

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. Speaker: Pastoral Associate Kelly LePenske presents "Living the Psalms" followed by a soup lunch.

Warm your soul and your body, and please bring white **cotton socks** to warm the feet of clients at the Christian Caring Center. For info contact Susan Masiko at (856) 630-3253 or susan.masiko@comcast.net.

Adult Education

No Adult Education on Dec. 29 (5th Sunday) or January 5. Look for an engaging new series beginning in January that correlates with the sermon series "Finding Comfort" about the Heidelberg Catechism. The Heidelberg Catechism was written by two young German theologians in 1563 to help instruct the church, and particularly young people, in the basic doctrines of the Christian faith.

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!](#)

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. or **sign up online today** at www.fpcmoorestown.org. Questions? Contact Alison Mackey or Kelly LePenske at klepenske@fpcmoorestown.org.

If you didn't have a chance to purchase the Ways Devotional, stop by the table in Commons Lobby and pick up yours. Suggested donation is \$5.00 each, full set \$50.

Christmas Clean-Up?

As you sort through and put away Christmas decorations, please remember that the Rummage Sale holiday shop would love to have any items that are new or gently used. Rummage Sale is **April 1-2, 2020** (we cannot store items before the sale).

Annual Meeting

Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, February 2
12:15 pm

Light lunch provided by Deacons
Ministry Leaders: Annual Reports
due to Jan by Friday, January 10

The Beautiful Worship of Christmas Eve

THANK YOU TO THE MANY members, children and families of FPCM who helped present our four Christmas Eve worship services, whether by decorating, assembling candles, rehearsing, reading, singing, playing music, fitting costumes, ushering, printing bulletins, scheduling elders, preaching, greeting, praying, attending, serving communion, collecting offerings, lighting candles, wrangling children or sharing the light and love of Jesus. Your gifts were plentiful and allowed us to share the beauty of this Holy Season with our FPC Moorestown families, staff, visitors and guests.

IHN here January 12-19**Best Wishes, Dan**

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. 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.