

FAMILY MINISTRY

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

Kingdom Kids Christmas Break

- Kingdom Kids Christmas party: Wednesday, Dec. 11
- Kingdom Kids will resume on Wednesday, Feb. 5

Crossing Zone Christmas Break

- Crossing Zone Christmas party: Wednesday, Dec. 11
- Crossing Zone will resume on Wednesday, Feb. 5



Flock Christmas Break

- Flock Christmas party: Wednesday, Dec. 11
- Flock will resume on Wednesday, January 15

Wave Christmas Break

- Wave Christmas party: Sunday, December 15
- Wave will resume Sunday, January 12

CREDO Confirmation

The Confirmation class concluded for the season on Nov. 24. CREDO resumes on May 3, 2020.

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 Ascitutto
856-235-1688, x116
hascitutto@fpcmoorestown.org

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

Family Dinner Menu for Wednesday, December 11 (6-7 pm)
It's a Pizza Party!



Save The Date: Kids and Youth Christmas Parties

- ⇒ Wednesday, Dec. 11: Kingdom Kids (4:45 pm)
- ⇒ Wednesday, Dec. 11: Crossing Zone (6:30 pm)
- ⇒ Wednesday, Dec. 11: Flock (6:30 pm)
- ⇒ Sunday, Dec. 15: Wave (6:30 pm)

See emails from Holly or Dan about how you can help ...

⇒ Kids and youth groups end for the season with their Christmas parties (see above schedule).
Have a wonderful Winter Break!

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
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WORSHIP HOURS

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

Connect. Devote.
Serve. Worship.

EDUCATION HOUR

December 8, 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
(resumes in May)
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

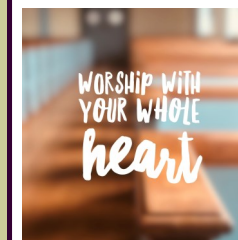


First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

December 8-15, 2019

GRACE NOTES / FPCM Ways of the Week

December 8-15, 2019



WORSHIP WITH YOUR WHOLE HEART. Your life is meant to be an act of worship. Every breath, action, and thought flows from God and can bring him glory. Praise God everywhere and embrace the opportunities to regularly worship with your church family.

IF I READ THROUGH THE PAGES of Scripture, I am told to love God with my whole heart, serve God with my whole heart and, in this week's way, worship Him with my whole heart. All of these commandments force me to ask, "What does it mean to do *anything* with my whole heart?"

There are varying beliefs about the heart. If I accept the materialist's belief, the heart is solely matter; it pumps blood to other physical organs. If we apply this belief to our current topic, we could say that we need to love God with our physical being. If my body is in church every Sunday, I am worshipping God with my whole heart. No matter what I am truly focused on, whether it be a promotion at work or the football game I will be watching in an hour, I am fulfilling God's commands by my physical presence.

If we take another view, the heart is where the emotions stem from. It is often put into competition with the brain. Application: being in church matters less than emotional responses to the people around us. Meeting with the people of God isn't as important as making sure that we give the homeless man on the street corner a sandwich.

The problem with both of these views is that they simply aren't radical enough. Christ didn't expect us merely to show up for an hour every Sunday, or merely to give the homeless man a sandwich. Let's look at a biblical understanding of the heart in Proverbs 4:23. I like the NIV here: "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." In this view, the heart is the center of the emotional life, the intellectual life, the spiritual life and the physical life. In short, the whole person. All of my anger towards my father, all of my self-proclaimed intellectual superiority to the person I am sitting next to in the pew, the entire absence of my devotional life and all of the cancer that is giving me only months to live is what God wants seeking, serving and worshipping Him. This is what we have to bring to God in order for us to satisfy this week's way. Anything less and we are holding back, only offering part of ourselves to the God who wants us in our entirety. God wants whole people worshipping Him, so that those people can become like Christ from the inside out.

Deacon Paul Gordon

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

Manger Sunday

On Manger Sunday **Dec. 15** we will present our gifts at the manger 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 forward amidst beloved carols of the season. Bring gifts **unwrapped**. [See our website for a list of suggested items.](#)

Advent Devotional Guide

As part of “Devote” in our goal to “Connect. Devote. Serve. Worship” Advent devotional guides are available in the Commons Lobby to guide through the Advent Season.

Stop by the [Mitten Tree](#) in the Commons Lobby to contribute warm mittens and hats for needy children, sponsored by the Knitting Network.

Angel Tree EXTENDED!

Thank you to all who have picked up Angels and Christian Caring Center (CCC) ornaments from the Angel Tree. There are lots of CCC gifts still available on the tree, so please make your way over to the table in Miller Commons, select a CCC ornament and make a child's Christmas! Deadline to return gifts has also been **extended**. Please have all gifts returned by noon on Sunday, Dec. 8 to ensure prompt delivery. Questions: Please 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.

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.fpcmoores town.org. [Read a letter](#) from Pastor Stuart about our year ...

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. Invite family, colleagues and neighbors to join you. The Longest Night includes elements from a service of remembrance, including the Lord's Supper, special music and a time for prayer. *Bring a framed photograph of your loved one to display.* 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.



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.



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

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

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. Fellowship Hall, 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](#).

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 with Jan Martin in the church office at jmartin@fpcmoores town.org or (856) 235-1688, Ext. 133.

Christmas Concert & Gala
West Jersey Chamber
Chorale & West Jersey Brass
Saturday, Dec. 14 (7 pm)
Adults \$28, Senior/Student \$18

A New Sanctuary Tree!

Thank you to an anonymous active member of Presbyterian Women who donated a new Christmas tree for the Sanctuary. The tree was given in loving memory of **Cathy Denton** who was a past Moderator of PW. She took the lead in creating the Crismons (religious ornaments) that bless our tree and mentored others who preserved them over the years. We are grateful to both ladies for their generosity of Spirit.

Ways Devotional Vol. 5
Now Available

Christmas Basket Help

Your Deacons are looking for volunteers for Christmas Food Baskets! Helpers are needed for the pickup (7:45 am), packing (8:15 am) and delivery (9:00 am) on **Saturday, December 14th**. Sign-up at the Welcome Desk and in the Narthex. Questions? Please contact Helen Dominy at 856-235-5594 or rmdsrillc@aol.com.

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

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!](#)

January Inquirers Class

NEW 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@fpcmoores town.org. Questions? Contact Alison Mackey or Kelly LePenske at klepenske@fpcmoores town.org.