



Sunday School resumes January 5! Welcome back, friends!

Off for Winter Break

Kingdom Kids, Crossing Zone, Flock, Family Dinner and Wave are on Winter Break until January. The last events of 2019 were the Christmas parties.

- ◆ Wave resumes **Sunday, January 12.**
- ◆ Flock resumes **Wednesday, January 15.**
- ◆ Kingdom Kids, Crossing Zone and Family Dinner resume **Wednesday, January 29.**

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

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

- Romans 8:1

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

TONIGHT: Moravian Lovefeast Concert (Sunday, January 5, 7 pm)

ENJOY A MUSICAL CONCLUSION to the Christmas season as three 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.

Way of the Week

2. SPEAK THE TRUTH WITH LOVE. Speak honestly and directly in a way that clearly reflects love and support for one another. Be courageous enough to say what needs to be said, even when it's difficult. Address issues directly with those who are involved or affected; speak to, not about, others.

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

Kelly LePenske
Director of
Congregational Ministry

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

Connect. Devote. Serve. Worship.

EDUCATION HOUR
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 resumes on **Sunday, Jan. 12**
◆ 3 C's Class
◆ NEW: Building Blocks of Prayer (see page 3)

"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

First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

January 5-12, 2020

GRACE NOTES / FPC Moorestown Way of the Week January 5-12, 2020



2. SPEAK THE TRUTH WITH LOVE. Speak honestly and directly in a way that clearly reflects love and support for one another. Be courageous enough to say what needs to be said, even when it's difficult. Address issues directly with those who are involved or affected; speak to, not about, others.
(Read: Ephesians 4: 29; Ephesians 4: 31; Ephesians 4: 15)

"You can pay me now or you can pay me later."

Some of us of a certain age may recall this tag line from an old television ad for Fram Oil Filters. A mechanic wiped his greasy hands as he spoke to the camera, "I just replaced his engine. He'll pay me a lot for it. He could have spent \$10 for a new oil filter and saved himself a bunch. You can pay me now or you can pay me later." You'll pay the mechanic, now or later. As a general rule, you'll pay more later.

I think this rule applies to relationships — spouses, children, parents, siblings, staff, and church members. You'll pay more later than earlier but there's always a bill to pay. I'm referring to conflict. Because we're a collection of redeemed sinners, we can expect disagreements, disputes and somebody having a bad day around here. This means that conflicts are coming to First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown.

A member of a former church of mine is an attorney. He has no problem with conflict. He deals with it every day. He might even love conflict. I don't, and I'm not alone. I don't know where God falls on the love-hate continuum with conflict; I do know that God uses conflict and often redeems us by helping us grow up in the thick of it. That's why this Way is critical in building up our congregation. Way #2 encourages us to "pay early" by speaking "honestly and directly in way that clearly reflects love and support for one another." When someone speaks to me this way, and a few of you have, I'll always welcome your words. I'd rather hear from you than see you disappear because you'd prefer to avoid the tough conversation. Hard conversations only get harder, not easier, as time passes. You pay me later than you will earlier. Just listen to the car mechanic.

Stuart Spencer, Pastor

TONIGHT: Moravian Lovefeast Concert (7:00 p.m., see page 4)

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: Director of Congregational Ministry 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 information contact Susan Masiko at (856) 630-3253 or susan.masiko@comcast.net.

Every year we are amazed at the number of toys members of our congregation give to make Christmas special for children who would go without. To each of you who made this possible, **thank you**. We had another banner year for donations, you are all very special — May God bless you.

The Emerson Family

Preschool Open House

Tuesday, January 21, 2020
6:30-8:00 pm

Help Write Grace Notes

On Sunday, Dec. 29, we began our third round of the 25 Ways as we affirm the focal points of our church culture here at First Presbyterian Church. Which way speaks to you? 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*. 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.

Preschool Registration

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.

See "Prayer Through Jesus' Eyes"

The Ken Peacock Memorial Lecture Series, in collaboration with the FPCM Prayer Team, proudly offers a two-day seminar on Scripture based, Spirit motivated prayer combining the principles of Paul Miller's *A Praying Life* with "The Person of Jesus" study version of *Love Walked Among Us*. Pastor Keith Grant, an actor, corporate trainer, and *A Praying Life* trainer, has discovered a marriage of his teaching gifts and his passion for Jesus. Keith also serves as a development associate.

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Friday, January 24

Check-in 6:00 pm, Seminar 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 25

Event continues 8:30 a.m. – noon

FREE admission. [Register online](#) by **January 14th** to ensure enough materials. Questions, contact the church office (856) 235-1688. Visit www.fpcmoorestown.org—Events.

Blanket Sunday Offering

[Blanket Sunday](#), sponsored by our Deacons and Church World Service, is coming **Sunday, January 26**. Your contributions enable CWS to help families around the world shelter from the elements, recover from disasters and displacement, and help rebuild viable communities. Watch for special bulletin inserts or give securely online.



IHN Guests here January 12-19 Volunteers Welcomed!

(meeting rooms may be moved that week)

2020 boxed envelope sets have been mailed for your offering in the new year. Look for yours! Or this year, try [online giving](#) and go paperless.



Adult Education

January 12, 19 & 26: *The Building Blocks of Prayer*: Dive into the Old and New Testament as we explore the power of prayer. Arlita Winston leads this 3-week class that connects the ancient prayers of the Israelites, prophets and Jesus to our contemporary lives. This class is a great introduction to "Prayer Through Jesus' Eyes," the 2020 Ken Peacock Memorial Lecture Series on Friday & Saturday, Jan. 24-25 (see page 2).

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**

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).

Session Meeting Tuesday, January 7

- 7:00-7:30 pm with Deacons
- 7:30-9:00 pm Session Meeting

New Sermon Series: Finding Comfort

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong— body and soul, in life and in death to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

On January 5th, Pastor Spencer begins a sermon series called "Finding Comfort." Stuart and other preachers from our pastoral staff will be preaching on biblical themes from the Heidelberg Catechism. The Heidelberg Catechism, released in 1563, is one of the primary Reformed summaries of the faith that emerged from the Protestant Reformation. Today the Catechism remains a guide for preaching in many Reformed churches as the Catechism includes summary observations on key topics like the Apostles' Creed, the Ten Commandments, and the Lord's Prayer. For a full version of the Catechism visit: <https://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/confessions/heidelberg-catechism>

January Inquirers Class for New Members

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

Best Wishes, Dan

Dan Wonneberger has accepted a position as Student Ministry Director of Redeemer Church (ECO) in Snellville, GA. His last Sunday with us will be Feb. 2, 2020, when he will preach both services. During the Education hour that day, we will have a reception to honor Dan. Monetary gifts can be sent to the church office (ATTN: Norm Vandergrift) – by 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 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 Feb. 2. Checks that day must be made out directly to Dan.

Annual Meeting

Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, February 2, 2020
12:15 pm ~ Fellowship Hall
Light lunch provided by Deacons

MINISTRY LEADERS: Annual Reports are due to [Jan Martin](#) by **Friday, January 10**, reviewing highlights, goals, and events of your area for 2019. The Annual Report will be available on Sunday, Jan. 26 to review before the meeting.

**MLK Day Monday, Jan. 20
Church & Preschool Closed**