

**First Presbyterian Church**  
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**Connect. Devote.  
Serve. Worship.**

**ADVISORY**  
**Sunday, March 29**

Due to the [COVID-19](#) health crisis, there will be one **9:30 a.m.** blended worship service which will be streamed LIVE from the sanctuary. Log on to [www.fpcmoorestown.org](http://www.fpcmoorestown.org) on your phone, computer or tablet. The service is also posted later in the week to our website.

**All activities are CANCELLED until further notice.** The office is CLOSED and [staff](#) is working remotely from home.

*"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](mailto:jmartin@fpcmoorestown.org)  
856-235-1688, Ext. 133

**Are you receiving our Friday e-blast** with announcements, *Connections* and upcoming events? If not, contact the [church office](#).



# Connections



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF MOORESTOWN

First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

March 29-April 5, 2020

## Way of the Week 14

**GROW FAITH.** Take advantage of every chance you have to form your faith—through small groups, classes, and personal study. Be a disciple and look to learn from those who know more of the Bible and Christian life than you do, then look for opportunities to share what you've gained with someone else. **Read:** *Mark 8: 34; 2 Timothy 2: 2*

## GRACE NOTES

*"Someone who knew what he was talking about once remarked that pain was the touchstone of all spiritual progress."* - Bill Wilson, *The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*

WOULDN'T IT BE WONDERFUL if our faith in Christ grew best when we are at our best? What if faith grew strongest when we had it all together: when we loved the way we looked and felt like a million bucks, when everything was just right in our families, our marriages, our jobs and the world? You know the answer. If everything had to be aligned perfectly a) you probably wouldn't be thinking about God and b) perfect never comes.

Bill Wilson, co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous, discovered the truth about how faith grows. As most plants require dirt to grow, so faith requires pain to grow. I might learn a lot from a Bible study or by reading a great book on theology but nothing has helped my dependence on God deepen like a crisis or a challenge. Ten years ago, my wife Leslie was diagnosed with an early form of breast cancer. Her doctors told her it was aggressive and she would need to undergo surgery and chemotherapy. Soon one surgery became three surgeries, and radiation therapy followed chemotherapy. Our boys were young then. I was, to be honest, overwhelmed with concern for my wife and our family.

One day, about four or five months into her treatments, I was talking with a man at my former church named Ron Cronise. Ron was a cancer survivor. He said to me, "This experience you're going through is going to strengthen your marriage and deepen your faith in God." OK, I thought, that's a good thing to remember. That same evening, I drove to a meeting here at FPC Moorestown. Bill Walker was there and his wife, Debbie is a breast cancer survivor. Bill looked at me and said, "This experience you're going through is going to strengthen your marriage and deepen your faith in God." Bill Walker and Ron Cronise don't know each other, though they said the identical thing I needed to hear. God used those two men to speak a word from God to me as clear as any I've heard. Bill and Ron were right. Leslie and I grew much closer and my faith went deeper than it had before.

Why is pain a necessary ingredient for spiritual growth? I think it's because pain drives me to my knees. Pain forces me to ask for support from my closest friends. Pain breaks any illusion that I can manage my life apart from God. God is the user of pain.

We're in painful times right now as a nation and world; and the pain could linger for a long time to come. Could these days be rich spiritual growth days for us? I pray that will be the case. This Way encourages you to take advantage of every opportunity you can find to Grow Faith. Don't forget that pain is the touchstone.

Stuart Spencer, Pastor

### Coronavirus Update

In compliance with state and local government mandates related to [COVID-19](#), our campus will remain CLOSED until further notice. **All activities and events are suspended.** Worship has moved to a 9:30 a.m. blended service, broadcast live from the sanctuary. For Holy Week we will live stream special services for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Tenebrae, as well as three services on Easter. We have wonderful worship experiences planned! There is no accurate timetable for when we will be able to gather again, so for now, our ministry continues in this new rhythm. **Until further notice, please do not enter the building.** Only staff and a handful of volunteers who are assisting with worship are allowed in the building. We need to keep our building as clean and germ-free as possible for the virtual service. Thank you!

REMEMBER: [Like our Facebook page](#) for up-to-the-minute updates and information.

### Holy Week Live Stream Worship Schedule

- ◆ **April 5:** Palm Sunday (9:30 am, Sanctuary)
- ◆ **April 9:** Maundy Thursday (7:00 pm, Miller Commons)
- ◆ **April 10:** Good Friday Tenebrae (7:00 pm, Sanctuary)
- ◆ **April 12:** Easter Worship
  - 6:30 a.m. Sunrise
  - 9:30 a.m. Contemporary
  - 11:00 a.m. Traditional



#### SHARE THE FUN

Please post pictures on social media of you and your family worshipping with the live stream or surviving these quarantined days. What a fun way to connect from afar!

### Blessing Box Donations

The Blessing Box has been seeing high traffic and as a result, donations are quickly depleted. If you can, on your next trip food shopping, please pick up a few items and leave them outside the church doors. *You don't need to go into the church building; just leave the items outside.* See our website for a complete list of [suggested items](#).



### Deacons Food Baskets

The Deacons switched gears quickly for their Easter Food Baskets, which are vital to families facing food shortages. Instead of purchasing the food which would need to be packed and delivered, the Deacons will be mailing grocery gift cards to the food basket recipients. Many thanks to Deacons Helen Dominy, Susan Horn and their fantastic team.

### Worship 9:30 a.m. via Live Stream



Tune in! We will continue to host a live worship service at **9:30 a.m. Sunday morning** via live stream. You can access the service from your computer, phone or tablet at [fpcmoorestown.org/live-stream](http://fpcmoorestown.org/live-stream). Last week saw over 500 views!

There is an [interactive worship guide](#) you can download to help you follow the service. This bulletin can be found on the weekly Friday E-blast and our homepage.

### Lenten Book Study

Our *Not a Fan* Lenten book study groups are getting creative with ways to “meet” while maintaining physical distance and public health mandates. We’re learning all about Zoom videoconferencing, Google Hangouts, FaceTime, Skype, WebEx, screen sharing and conference calls. For questions contact Kelly LePenske at (206) 484-6758 cell/text or [klepenske@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:klepenske@fpcmoorestown.org).

### Staff Is Working Remotely

Our church staff has shifted to working from home and is reachable by phone, email or text. Messages are being retrieved from the church office during the week. Work emails for staff members are their first initial and last name@fpcmoorestown.org. Click here for a [staff directory](#).

**Stay Connected!****FREE Videoconferencing Ideas**

- ◆ Zoom Meeting
- ◆ Google Hangouts (10 ppl)
- ◆ FreeConference.com (5 ppl)
- ◆ Skype
- ◆ Cisco WebEx Meetings
- ◆ BlueJeans

**Church Center App**

Download the free "Church Center" mobile app to check-in to FPC Moorestown events, find or join a group, give online, register for events and contact the church. Visit your App Store (Apple) or Google Play Store (Android), look for the Church Center app and get connected.

**Special Session Meeting  
Wed. April 15 ~ 6:00 p.m.****Great Lifesaving Effort!**

Thank you FPC! The relocated Blood Drive on March 24 from a Church who had no heat to ours was a SUCCESS! 37 units were collected! This last-minute collaboration of two churches made this possible and the willingness to do the task at hand. No one had to be turned away because of an elevated temperature! Even despite the waiting time, people were happy to be out and doing something good. Thank you for allowing this to happen. Special thanks to Ken Wehn, who made three extra visits to make sure all was A-OK.

**CANCELLED**  
**April Couples Retreat**  
**"Marriage and Discipleship"**  
**April 17-19, 2020**

**April 14 Blood Drive at  
FPC; Save a Life**

How can I help? We hear that often right now as people look for meaningful, safe ways to help. Here's one way: the American Red Cross is having a Blood Drive at our church due to a critical shortage of blood. The drive will be **Tuesday, April 14 from 1-6 pm** in Fellowship Hall. The Red Cross will be taking special precautions during this time by taking temperatures at the door. No one can enter if they have a fever. As a donor you are fully protected. Please sign up for this needed blood drive. This is a state of urgency! This is how you can help! Donate a gift of life! Contact Deborah Heller at (856) 273-6838 or [dheller374@comcast.net](mailto:dheller374@comcast.net) to schedule an appointment or visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

**Discipleship Training:  
Part 2**

If you missed the first Disciple Making session with Ed and Debby Gross on February 29th, you can watch it on our live stream. Visit [www.fpcmoorestown.org](http://www.fpcmoorestown.org). A follow-up session has been planned for **Saturday, May 2** from 8:45 am - Noon (8:30 am Continental Breakfast). REGISTER ONLINE.

**Take a Tour of Africa!**

Join Mission Director Linda Jagiela **Wednesday, April 2** at 7:00 pm for *Mission Africa*, a virtual review of her recent trip to Uganda and Kenya visiting ministries supported by FPCM. This will be an interactive presentation on Zoom and will have time for a Q & A throughout the presentation. Log on information will be posted on the church's website and Facebook page. If you have questions regarding logging on, please email Linda at [missions@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:missions@fpcmoorestown.org).

**Please remember the church financially. God doesn't call us to go to church. He calls us to be his church.**

**Spring Prayer Retreat  
June 16-19**

Holy Cross Monastery  
West Park, New York  
"Praying the Lord's Prayer"  
Learn more/register at  
[www.fpcmoorestown.org](http://www.fpcmoorestown.org)

**Welcome New Members!**

On February 23rd, 8 persons met with Session and were accepted into the church. Those available were presented at worship on Sunday, March 8th:

- Mark Christopher
- Eric and Michelle Davis
- Jim MacIntyre
- Jennefir Moffa
- Joe and Karen Molloy
- Jonathan Schramm
- Norman and Janis Olsen (met with Session in December; introduced March 8 as well)



# FAMILY MINISTRY



## Save the Date: Vacation Bible School July 6-10, 2020 (9 am –12 noon each day)

### VBS 2020 “Rocky Railroad”

- ⇒ Children entering Kindergarten through entering 6th grade (Fall 2020)
- ⇒ In signups please enter CURRENT grade
- ⇒ Cost: \$20 per child (\$15 for second child)
- ⇒ Registration Deadline: June 29, 2020

*At Rocky Railroad VBS, kids climb aboard  
for mountains of fun!*

Visit: [www.fpcmoorestown.org](http://www.fpcmoorestown.org) to sign up online.  
Teen and Adult VBS volunteers needed!

### Youth: Register for Awesome Trips

Sign up at [www.fpcmoorestown.org](http://www.fpcmoorestown.org) (Events)

#### July 5-10: Brooklyn Service Trip (High School)

High schoolers, travel to Brooklyn, NY to serve in homes of people in need and underserved neighborhoods. A powerful trip serving, worshiping, growing, learning.

#### July 20-25th: Great Escape (Middle School)

A week filled with worship, games, engaging speakers, new friends, growing one's faith and travel to Johnstown, PA. Contact [Dave Fauvell](mailto:DaveFauvell) for more info.

#### **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

## Sermon Series Memory Verse

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.”

- Mark 8: 34, 35

For Families and Children:

**Holly Ascitutto**

856-235-1688, x116

[hascitutto@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:hascitutto@fpcmoorestown.org)

For Families and Youth:

**Dave Fauvell**

609-980-7885 (cell/text)

[dfauvell@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:dfauvell@fpcmoorestown.org)

### **This Week's Family Activity: Sin and Salvation**

PARENTS: This week's activity reminds us why we need rescuing, why we need a Savior! Because we were separated from God. What a terrible place to be. But because of the sacrifice of Jesus, God did not leave us there. He bridged the gap. Try this with your family. SUPPLIES NEEDED: Two pillows, a large room with enough space for your children to jump around.

Place the two pillows on the floor. Choose one pillow to represent people and another to represent God. Have your children stand on the "people pillow" and leave the "God pillow" open. As you talk about how people were created to be close to God, move the God pillow close so your children can easily step back and forth between the two pillows. When you mention sin and our separation from God, move the God pillow far enough away that your child can't jump to it, representing our inability to fix what sin did to our relationship with God. To illustrate how Jesus' death and resurrection paid the penalty for our sin, create a "bridge" between the two pillows using pillows or sheets and let your children walk freely across.



*To say:* When God created men and women, we were in a close relationship with Him (pillows close together.) However, when sin was introduced into the world, it created a big gap between us and God (pillows apart.) No matter what we try to do, we cannot fix the gap that sin created between us and God all by ourselves (kids try to jump to the empty pillow.) God sent His son Jesus – who never sinned – to come and pay the penalty for our sins. Jesus' death on the cross repaired the gap that sin created between God and us. (Connect the two pillows with your "bridge.") When we ask Jesus into our lives, we are forgiven of our sins and can enjoy a relationship with God. That's what we celebrate at Easter!

### **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering**

Watch for future developments on the One Great Hour of Sharing (fish banks)



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## Meaningful Opportunities for Holy Week and Easter

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### Communion on Palm Sunday, April 5th During 9:30 a.m. Live Stream Worship

Our Session authorized the celebration of the Lord's Supper for our Palm Sunday live stream worship service on **April 5, 2020** at 9:30 a.m. Communion will be offered at the close of worship, following the sermon.

You and your family will need to prepare for the sacrament at home. Please prepare a small piece of bread and a small cup of juice for each person who will receive the Lord's Supper. Follow Pastor Spencer's directions during the live stream. Children are welcome to receive communion provided they are baptized and have received instruction as to the meaning of the Lord's Supper. Parents can contact [Holly Ascitutto](#), Director of Children's Ministries, for resources to use at home.

The Lord's Supper will also be offered during the live-streamed Maundy Thursday service on **April 9, 2020** at 7:00 p.m.

*When we gather at the Lord's Supper the Spirit draws us into Christ's presence and unites with the Church in every time and place. We join with all the faithful in heaven and on earth in offering thanksgiving to the triune God. We reaffirm the promises of our baptism and recommit ourselves to love and serve God, one another, and our neighbors in the world. (W-3.0409)*



### NEW: Evening Prayer at FPC Moorestown; Starting April 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

*A 20-MINUTE SERVICE WITH MUSIC, SCRIPTURE  
AND A TIME TO PRAY*

We're offering another time for us to gather during the week by live stream. On Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. we offer a short time of worship and prayer. Martin and Christine Bass, our Contemporary Music leaders, provide songs of worship and praise, via live stream. Stuart Spencer and Kelly LePenske lead this simple service that also features Scripture and a time when we can pray for each other. You can access the live stream through our website [www.fpcmoorestown.org](http://www.fpcmoorestown.org) and use the Worship Guide that will be posted for your use.



Do you have a **prayer request**—a joy or a concern to share? Then email or text Stuart Spencer; and he'll share it that evening. Contact Stuart at:

⇒ Email: [sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org)

⇒ Cell/Text: (215) 932-4531

Please include your name with your request.

On **Thursday, April 9th**, we offer our Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 p.m. by live stream.

The Evening Prayer at FPC Moorestown service continues on **Thursday, April 16th**.

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### Holy Week and Easter Worship

See page 2 for a listing of worship services. Log on to the live stream at [www.fpcmoorestown.org](http://www.fpcmoorestown.org).