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

ADVISORY
Sunday, April 5

Due to the [COVID-19](#) 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 or [YouTube](#) from any device. The service is also posted later in the week to our website.

All activities are suspended until further notice. The campus is CLOSED until the end of April 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:

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Are you receiving our Friday e-blast with announcements, Connections and upcoming events? If not, contact the church office.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF MOORESTOWN

Connections

First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

April 5-12, 2020

Way of the Week 15

Welcome Change. Be curious about new ideas, perspectives, and approaches. Get excited by the possibilities that change can bring. What worked in the past won't always work in the future, for God is doing new things.. **Read:** *Mark 8: 34; 2 Timothy 2: 2*

GRACE NOTES

I get it. **Faithful Christian discipleship demands change**—for us as individuals and as a church. But, frankly, this is a really hard one for me; I like the comfort of a well-ordered rhythm. Oh, I do enjoy solving problems. I just wish that once they were solved they would stay solved. Yet that's not the way real life, and real discipleship, works.

Sometimes we choose to change; we decide to try a new food or learn a new skill. In fact, learning always involves change. To learn is to change how we think or act and feel. I don't mind politicians who "flip-flop;" it only means they can be taught. Some choices, such as a college, marriage or job, result in dramatic changes which alter our life's landscape but at least *we chose them*. However, sometimes a change chooses us, regardless of our wants or wishes; like a loved one's death, a tornado ripping through town, or a rapidly spreading pandemic. These drastically change life as we know it.

All change brings grief, even change we choose, for along with change comes loss. Newlyweds lose their independence. New parents lose sleep and a tidy home. New jobs bring the loss of old colleagues and friends. A new town means leaving behind familiar haunts and comfortable relationships. It's not change that we most fear or find hard, it's the losses that come with it.

When change chooses us, the full spectrum of emotion crashes in on us, like right now. We blame others whom we think should have done something differently. We flail around trying to learn new skills and ways of living—like how to be "together apart" with technology. We become afraid; fearing what's beyond our ability to anticipate, control or understand. We even come to fear people because anyone could be a potential virus carrier. How quickly people, not the coronavirus, become the enemy we fear and fight. Those reactions, though almost instinctual, are not necessarily godly or faithful for us as Jesus' disciples.

But even when change chooses us, we do have choices we can make. We are able to choose how we will respond.

We can choose to *love*—to love one another, to love those trying to make the best possible decisions for the church, to love those who are doing their level best to "do what needs to be done" as a result. We can love those we usually overlook. We can choose to love the unlovable.

We can choose to *learn*—let the change give us a new view of what God's Spirit is doing in the world. We discover better ways to do the work of Christ in the world as it is now, not how it once was or how we wish it were. Hey, I'm even learning how to use Zoom these days. Amazing! **(more)**

Grace Notes, cont.

We can choose to *laugh*—to seek joy in the journey, to notice and enjoy how God reveals His glory along life's road; like being with our children and grandchildren as they homeschool or building Legos together, and laughing together over a Pixar film.

We can choose to *last*—to endure, persevere, to never give up or give in to the temptation to quit—to quit following Jesus or to quit on the fellowship of others trying to follow Him faithfully. We choose to stick it out together.

Change is a challenge, especially when it's imposed on us suddenly and without our approval. Yet, God is still sovereign. Jesus is still on the throne of the universe. And the Spirit is not unaware. The choice we always have is how we will *respond*.

May we make faithful choices to love, to learn, to laugh and to last together in times of change.

Rev. Dr. Richard Herman

Holy Week Worship (all via live stream)

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

Evening Prayer Service

Pause for worship and prayer on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. for a 30-minute prayer service from our contemporary worship team. The first event was on April 2nd, the second event will be on April 16th. Our April 9th prayer service will be our [Maundy Thursday](#) service, also streaming live at 7:00 pm from Miller Commons. Kelly LePenske leads that service.

Coronavirus Update

In compliance with state and local government mandates to slow the spread of [COVID-19](#), our campus will remain CLOSED until further notice. **All activities and events are suspended.** But our ministry continues! Our live stream worship at 9:30 a.m. Sunday is a blended service, streaming 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 creative, meaningful worship experiences planned! See our website, eblasts and Facebook page for details. **Until further notice, please do not enter the building.** Only staff and key volunteers assisting with worship are allowed in the building. We need to keep our building contamination-free and safe for worship. Thank you!

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



Worship 9:30 a.m. via Live Stream

Tune in! Each Sunday FPC Moorestown hosts a LIVE worship service at **9:30 a.m. Sunday morning** via live stream. Access the service from your computer, phone or tablet at fpcmoorestown.org/live-stream. Last week saw over 500 views!

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

Lenten Book Study

Lent groups usually run until Easter, however, this year is different because of COVID-19. Groups are meeting online and end dates vary. Most have extended their meetings beyond Easter, and we're thankful! The more we continue to connect, discuss, reflect and respond through "Not A Fan," the richer our adventure as we're shaped into disciples. Contact Kelly LePenske at (206) 484-6758 cell/text or klepenske@fpcmoorestown.org.

Staff Is Working Remotely

Our work continues! Nearly all church staff are working from home and are easily accessible. Messages are being retrieved from the church office. See our eblast for a complete [staff directory](#).



Stay Connected!

FREE Videoconferencing Ideas

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

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 to schedule an appointment or visit www.redcross.org.

Church Center App

Download the free "Church Center" app to your cell phone to contact the church, give online, join a group and register for events. Download from 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. (videoconference)

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.

Events Cancelled

- ◆ April 17-19 Couples Retreat
- ◆ April 26 Choir & Brass Concert
- ◆ May 1 Friday Nighters
- ◆ IHN April 26-May 3 (TBD)

We Want to Keep You Safe

If you need help, e-mail the church at a special coronavirus mailbox: assistance@fpcmoorestown.org. What do we mean by help? For example: If you are unable to get groceries or a prescription because you are ill; are unable to drive; have a pre-existing condition; are worried about public exposure; you are ill; you'd just like someone to talk to. Our Deacons are ready to lend a hand with those errands and needs. We want to keep you safe. Beginning this week our Elders, Deacons and Trustees will also be making phone calls to our more at risk members to touch base.

Did you go to Africa?

On April 1, Missions Director Linda Jagiela took us on a virtual tour of her recent trip to Uganda and Kenya visiting ministries supported by FPCM. This was an interactive presentation on Zoom and featured Q & A throughout the chat feature.

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



Discipleship Training (see Part I online)

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. A follow-up session has been planned for **Saturday, May 2** from 8:45 am -Noon. We are exploring options for that session.

SHARE THE FUN

Please post pictures on social media worshiping with the live stream or surviving these quarantined days. Be sure to share with the church's Facebook!

Spring Prayer Retreat TBD

June 16-19

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



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 to sign up online.
Teen and Adult VBS volunteers needed!

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

Youth: Register for Awesome Trips

Sign up at 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:dfauvell@fpcmoorestown.org) for more info.

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 Asciutto

856-235-1688, x116

hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org

For Families and Youth:

Dave Fauvell

609-980-7885 (cell/text)

dfauvell@fpcmoorestown.org

This Week's Family Activity: "Even the Rocks Will Shout!"

PARENTS: This Sunday is Palm Sunday so the activity is really for Sunday (Kelly will do this again with the kids during Worship). BUT it might be cool if you have your kids prepare a rock ahead of time "painting" one. (Use paint or markers and design with Easter themes. Maybe a cross.) Don't tell them why and after they've painted it, put it away to dry and then pull it out for the Sunday morning children's message. It might make it a bit more special.



Ask your kids, "Do you like parades? Tell me about a parade - what happens there? What do you see?"

We have parades because we want to celebrate something or someone. A long time ago, there was a parade for Jesus. Let's all imagine we are at that parade. Let's all close our eyes for a minute. Pretend we are in a crowd of people. There are people on both sides of the street and everyone is excited. We are all waiting for Jesus! We have heard about him and all the great things he has done. He has been healing people, encouraging people, teaching people about God, feeding great big crowds of people, and he even raised a few people from the dead!

We can't wait to see him. He must be getting closer because the crowd down the street just started shouting and cheering. Then he turns the corner and we see him coming down the road riding on a donkey. [Read complete lesson here ...](#)

The Lord is my Shepherd. I have all that I need ...

Watch this beautiful meditation Ms. Holly sent to our Kingdom Kids children recently:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0z67O65uI0>



HOLY WEEK

Meaningful Opportunities for Holy Week and Easter

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 Asciutto](#), 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; April 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

A 30-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 with Scripture and a time to pray for each other. You can access the live stream through our website 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
- ⇒ 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**.

Holy Week and Easter Worship

See page 2 for a listing of worship services. Log on to the live stream at www.fpcmoorestown.org.