

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

**ADVISORY**  
**Sunday, April 12**

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](http://www.fpcmoorestown.org) or [YouTube](#) from any device. The service is also posted later in the week to our website.

**All activities have been suspended.** The campus is CLOSED until further notice 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**

**April 12-19, 2020**

## Way of the Week 16

**GIVE CHEERFULLY.** Rejoice, you get to give! Think of giving as a privilege rather than an obligation, a joy instead of a burden. As you consider all that's been entrusted to you — time, abilities and money — ask, "How is God calling me to share what I've been given?"  
**Read:** 2 Corinthians 9: 7; Luke 6: 38

## GRACE NOTES: "Give Generously"

A MILESTONE in my family's corporate spiritual life occurred early in my college years. My parents were struggling to pay my college fees, even selling family heirlooms, and had cut back from giving a full 10% tithe. But after study and prayer, the couples in their small group all decided to give a full tithe to the Lord, and trust Him to provide their needs. The next day my dad's boss called Dad into his office, and gave him a raise, a bonus, and a company car. For the rest of his life my mother, herself a generous woman, sometimes had to restrain him, because 10% was never again enough for Dad.

That's a great story, and Scripture may back it up. [In Luke 6:38](#) Jesus says, 'Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.' God definitely makes this promise.

The context of Jesus' words is not just about material gifts. Verses 37 and 38 instruct us not to judge or condemn, or we court condemnation; to forgive, so that we may be forgiven. In [vss. 27-37](#) Jesus calls us to do purposeful good to those who dislike and berate us; to give love and help to people whom we know will not be able to re-pay us; to be kind to ungrateful people; and to bestow the mercy we have received from God on others.

What a time this is to comfort others with the comfort we have received in Christ! Yes, by all means, give generously to the church, so that we may continue to worship together, support our missionaries and supply the needy in our community; give generously to ministries such as Urban Promise, whose staff daily helps the people of Camden. How better to spend our material wealth? But also give generously of comfort to those who are alone; of forgiveness to those who are on the stressful front lines and may not always have time for pleasantries. Grab the initiative; reach out and communicate.

We have an opportunity. C S Lewis wrote that 'the cross comes before the crown'; and 'a cleft has opened in the pitiless walls of the world, and we are invited to follow our great Captain inside.' 'There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal.' Each person we encounter—whether across the street, on the phone, or by Zoom—is moving closer or farther away from God. We may assist or deter them. The kindness, generosity, and forgiveness we express must be real, and may be costly, but life in Christ is inexhaustible.

Lissa Herman

## Evening Prayer Service Thursday, April 16

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 30-minute service 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. 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? Email or text Stuart Spencer; and he'll share it that evening. Contact Stuart at:

⇒ [sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org)  
 ⇒ Cell/Text: (215) 932-4531  
 Please include your name with your request.

## Holy Week Worship (all via live stream)

- ◆ **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

## Staff Is Working Remotely

In response to national directives to stay at home, church staff are working from home and are accessible by email, phone and text. Messages are being retrieved from the church office.

## April Session Meeting Tuesday, April 28 7:00 p.m. (via videoconference)

Session packet materials are due to Jan Martin by **Friday, April 24** (12 noon)

## Our New Normal

To slow the spread of **COVID-19**, our campus is **CLOSED** until further notice and all activities and events are suspended. But our ministry continues. We are live streaming Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and three Easter services. We have created meaningful worship experiences and families are participating from the safety of their homes. Committees are meeting via Zoom, Google Hangouts, Google Meet, Skype, WebEx, and good old fashioned email and phone calls. Our families receive targeted activities to do together. Home communion has been implemented. New users are signing up for online giving and prayer teams are calling our members who may be at risk. Staff members are keeping all these plates spinning from home. Good stuff is happening here!

REMEMBER: [Like our Facebook](#) page for current news. Are you receiving our Friday eblasts with the "Connections" and bulletin?



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

Tune in! Each Sunday FPC Moorestown hosts a blended worship service streamed LIVE at **9:30 a.m. Sunday morning** from the Sanctuary. Access the service from any device at [fpcmoorestown.org/live-stream](http://fpcmoorestown.org/live-stream). Share it with your friends and social media connections. Last week saw over 700 views!

Download the interactive bulletin from the Friday eblast, Saturday reminder eblast and our homepage so you and your family can follow along.

## It's a New Book Club

Watch for more information on a new Missions Book Club. Our first three books will be:

1. "Tattoos on the Heart" by Father Gregory Boyle, a missionary who ministers to the gangs in Los Angeles. **Please read by May 1<sup>st</sup>.**
2. "In The Presence of My Enemies," by Gracia Burnham detailing her capture in the Philippines
3. "The Promise of a Pencil," an amazing story of how an ordinary person can effect extraordinary change

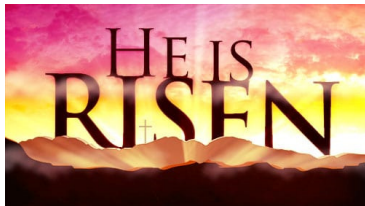
Make this a family adventure and include your middle and high school readers. We'll meet via Zoom to discuss. Books can be ordered from Amazon. Contact Linda Jagiela at [missions@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:missions@fpcmoorestown.org) or (267) 275-7582 cell/text.



### Letters of Well Wishing

In this unique time of “virtual church,” we may be worshipping separately but we can pray for one another TOGETHER. We have created an Electronic Letter of Well Wishing, which is “e-signed” by the pastoral staff. Is there someone to whom you would like a Letter of Well Wishing sent?

Please email Alison Mackey at [amackey@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:amackey@fpcmoorestown.org) with the recipient’s name, brief description of their situation, and their email. Alison will email them the Letter of Well Wishing e-signed with warmest wishes and support on behalf of our congregation.



**Special Session Meeting  
Wed. April 15 ~ 6:00 p.m.  
(via videoconference)**

#### Events Cancelled

- ◆ April 17-19 Couples Retreat
- ◆ April 26 Choir & Brass Concert
- ◆ IHN April 26-May 3 (TBD)
- ◆ May 1 Friday Nighters
- ◆ May 2-3 Youth Choir Retreat
- ◆ May 7 Lunch Bunch

#### 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.

### April 14 Blood Drive at FPC Moorestown

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, taking temperatures at the door. No one can enter if they have a fever. Donors are fully protected. Please sign up for this urgently needed blood drive. Donate a gift of life! Contact Debbie 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 (see Part I online)

A follow-up session on Disciple Making has been planned for **Saturday, May 2** from 8:45 am-Noon and will be conducted via Zoom Meeting. REGISTER ONLINE. Elders, Deacons, Trustees, APNC, Program Staff and congregation members are welcome. Visit our website Events page; the Meeting ID and Password will be provided. If you missed the first Disciple Making session with Ed and Debby Gross on Feb. 29th, you can watch it on our webpage (live stream).

### We Want to Keep You Safe

If you need help, e-mail the church at a special coronavirus mailbox: [assistance@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto: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. ***Our Elders, Deacons and Trustees are also 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.

**National Day of Prayer  
Thursday, May 7**

**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](http://www.fpcmoorestown.org)

#### SHARE THE FUN

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



# FAMILY MINISTRY



## 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!*

REGISTER: [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)

## Last Week’s Family Activity: “Baking for Maundy Thursday”

**PARENTS:** This year, many of us are unable to gather together in person to share in Communion, so this at-home liturgy serves as a reminder that God meets us at every table. Every meal we share is a reminder of the holy meal we share during Communion.

On Maundy Thursday we remember Jesus’ last meal by sharing Communion. In this season, since we are not able to break bread together, we invite you to do the next best thing: prepare a loaf of bread at home. Or something else ... Have a sourdough starter? Make sourdough! Missing yeast? Make muffins or scones! Have a sweet tooth? Make cookies! Don’t want to go shopping? Use whatever ingredients you have! It doesn’t have to be perfect. God will show up anyway. The point is to be in the kitchen, to put your hands to work, and to allow your preparation process to be a prayer. **BONUS:** Use this for our 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday worship service ...



Once your bread or baked goods are prepared, gather around the table for a meal. If you have family with you, invite them to join. Light a candle for the table as a reminder that this is a space set apart. This meal reminds us of the promises made to us in the sacrament of Communion—that all belong to God, that God’s love is stronger than death, and that one day, all will be fed. [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=a0z67O65ul0>