

First Presbyterian Church
101 Bridgeboro Road
Moorestown, NJ 08057
www.fpcmoorestown.org
(856) 235-1688

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

Kelly LePenske
Director of
Congregational Ministries
klepenske@fpcmoorestown.org

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

COVID-19 Advisory
Sunday, April 19

All activities have been suspended and the campus is CLOSED until further notice.

Join us from the safety of your home for a live stream worship service Sunday mornings at **9:30 a.m.** This blended service streams live from the sanctuary and participants observe strict physical distancing. Log on to www.fpcmoorestown.org or [YouTube](#) from any device. The service is also posted later in the week to our website.

"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, Connections and upcoming events? If not, contact the [church office](#).



Connections



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF MOORESTOWN

First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

April 19-26, 2020

Way of the Week 17

SHOW WHO YOU REALLY ARE. Our church is for "real" people. Bring your true self, including your joys, your sorrows, your fears, your strengths and your weaknesses. God loves you as you are. Don't hide your struggles, failures or problems.

Read: Romans 5:6; John 3:16

GRACE NOTES

I WAS NINETEEN YEARS YOUNG when I moved into my first apartment in east Los Angeles. I was proud to be out of my college's dorms and in a place of my own. Living with three friends, we strategized how we could turn our bare apartment into a home. We'd throw some rugs over the dingy, beige carpet in the living room to hide the previous tenant's stains. We'd go to Goodwill and find a dining room table with matching chairs so we could have dinner parties. And I suggested we paint the walls. Our outdated apartment may have been a bit worse for the wear, but some color would brighten things up.

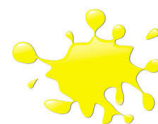
After a trip to Walmart, my roommate and I had a blast painting our walls yellow, warm and friendly like the California sun. We cranked up the music, went to town, and stood back to admire our work at the end of the day. Well done, we thought.

A few days later, our landlady Kara stopped by with a plate of chocolate chip cookies. We invited her in, touched by the kind gesture, which is when she laid eyes on our yellow walls. "What do you think?" I excitedly asked. Kara was speechless. "It is kinda bright," I admitted. After scanning the room, she finally spoke: "I'm guessing you didn't read the fine print." And that was the moment I learned our lease had a "no painting any surface whatsoever" clause.

On the first day we met, Kara saw who I really was—someone eager for a fresh start and still bound to mess up. Jesus knows us better than we know ourselves, and he sees our costly mistakes all the time, yet he doesn't walk away. Ever. Jesus reminds us "that while we were still sinners, he died for us" (Romans 5:6). This means that we can bring our whole selves to him, every fear, shame, and yellow wall, and he'll offer us a better ending to our messy story.

The next day, Kara returned. She said she needed to hire painters to fix the walls, a project I couldn't afford. I was apologetic and totally embarrassed. I volunteered to do all the work myself, but she didn't let me finish my sentence. "Don't worry," she winked. "This one's on me." Kara didn't just meet me in my time of need; she went above and beyond. She accepted me as I was, flawed and broke, and I'll never forget it. This is how Jesus accepts us every day, and this is how redemption begins: by showing who you really are.

Kelly LePenske



Evening Prayer Service Thursday, April 23

On Thursday evenings we offer a weekly oasis for us to gather in community (by live stream). At 7:00 p.m. we offer a 30-minute service of worship and prayer. Our Contemporary Worship team provides songs of worship and praise. Stuart Spencer and Kelly LePenske lead this simple service with Scripture and a time to pray for each other. Access the prayer service at 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 by **Wednesday 9:00 a.m.** and he'll share it that evening. Contact Stuart at:

⇒ sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org

⇒ Cell/Text: (215) 932-4531

Please include your name with your request.

Our New Normal

To slow the spread of [COVID-19](#), our campus is CLOSED until further notice and all activities suspended. But ministry continues. We live streamed beautiful services for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and three Easter services. We have created meaningful prayer experiences and families are participating from the safety of their homes. Teams 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?

Men at Work

While the building is empty, our property staff is tackling a never-ending To Do list. **Thank you** to Ken Wehn, Steve Cashmer, Fausto de la Cruz, Steve Margerum and Sam Spencer.

- Painting of interior Sanctuary, Narthex and David room walls.
- Remounted monitors in Narthex (hid wiring in the walls, lowered monitors for easier visibility.)
- Replacing ceiling lights, switches and outlets in choir loft
- Installing new choir loft speakers
- Carpet install in main hallways, pulpit area and Narthex.
- Painting the walls
- Total overhaul and upgrade of the Fellowship Hall sound system.
- Power washing, scraping, caulking, priming and painting trim around the entire building.
- Wong Garden: Bluestone patio reset, water feature installation.
- Leaky roof repaired over pre-school wing, Commons bathroom.
- Rotted section of back columns being repaired and repainted
- Grounds cleared of brush



Sunday Worship via Live Stream

Tune in! Each Sunday at **9:30 a.m.**, FPC Moorestown hosts a blended worship service streamed LIVE from the Sanctuary and into your homes. Access the service from any device at fpcmoorestown.org/live-stream, [YouTube](#) or [Facebook](#). *Share it with your friends and social media connections.*

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 1st.**
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 or (267) 275-7582 cell/text.



May 11 Blood Drive at FPC Moorestown

THANK YOU to everyone who came out for the April 14 blood drive—32 units were donated! There is a critical blood shortage and this help is vital. If you were not able to schedule an appointment, another drive is scheduled for **Monday, May 11** from 1-7 pm. *Appointments required.* Contact Debbie Heller at (856) 273-6838 or dheller374@comcast.net to schedule your appointment or visit www.redcross.org. **The Red Cross is 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!

Register for Training: How to Make Disciples

A follow-up session on Disciple Making has been planned for **Saturday, May 2** and will be conducted via Zoom for Elders, Deacons, Trustees, APNC, Program Staff and congregation members. [REGISTER ONLINE](#) on the church website (Events). The Meeting ID and Password will be provided via electronic invitation to church leaders. Congregation members are also welcome! Members may obtain the Meeting ID and Password by contacting Jan Martin at jmartin@fpcmoorestown.org or 630-750-7622 cell/text. NOTE: If you missed the first Disciple Making session with Ed & Debby Gross on Feb. 29th, you can watch it on our [webpage \(live stream\)](#).

Prayer Vigil: National Day of Prayer

As a church we will be praying for 12 hours on **Thursday, May 7**, the National Day of Prayer. Please sign up for a designated time to pray for our church, our families, our communities, or nation, and the world. In our homes or with others of your choosing, we will be praying from 6:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. on May 7. Times are in 30-minute slots and available times are listed on the [SignUpGenius sign up sheet](#). Please sign up for a time(s) that works for your schedule. For questions contact Melissa Corbin at (609) 247-4053 cell. See our FPC website for a [National Prayer](#) and [How to Pray Guide](#). Pray God's Glory Across the Earth!

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 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.

National Day of Prayer Thursday, May 7

Can We Help?

Our Elders, Deacons and Trustees are making phone calls to our more at risk members to touch base. If you find you need help, you can e-mail the church at a special coronavirus mailbox: assistance@fpcmoorestown.org. 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. You can also call the church office at (856) 235-1688 and leave a message on the voice mail.

Touring Choir Mini-Concert

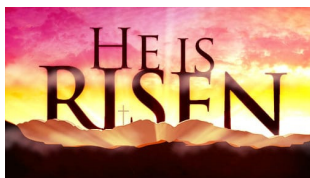
Visit www.youtube.com to see a mini-concert by our 2019 Touring Choir singing two spirituals: "My Lord, What a Morning" and "Ain't No Grave Can Hold My Body Down." Video editing: Martin Bass

SHARE YOUR CHURCH

Please post pictures on social media worshipping with the live stream, quarantining days or sharing home communion. Be sure to share with the church's Facebook!

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.





FAMILY MINISTRY



Vacation Bible School July 6-10, 2020 (9:00 am-Noon)

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

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: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
hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org

For Families and Youth:
Dave Fauvell
609-980-7885 (cell/text)
dfauvell@fpcmoorestown.org

This Week's Family Activity: "Ripley's Believe it or Not"

Dear Parents,

This week as a family, take a look at <https://www.ripleys.com/>. There are so many fun, crazy bits of information that will make you say, "I am not sure I believe that." Over and over. Believing is a key ingredient to our Faith life in Jesus. John 3:16 tells us this, "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who **believes** in him will not die but will have eternal life." Help your kids to memorize this verse this week. It is a great one to commit to memory. While you are on the website, pick three of your favorite stories from subject areas that interest you as a family. Then discuss them together in the following short lesson. I have provided some examples to use if you don't have the time to look up the website together. I am praying for you and will see you next week! ~ Holly

Here is the lesson: There is a very interesting book called "Believe It or Not" by Robert Ripley. Mr. Ripley enjoyed collecting strange and unusual bits of information which, although they seem unbelievable, were true. Let me read some examples of some of the amazing things you will find in his book.

Ripley's
Believe It or Not!

[Read complete lesson here ...](#)

Easter Story Stone Art

Watch this compelling video art which was linked to our Easter bulletins and shared with our children:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfNNYmOogRo&feature=youtu.be>