

**First Presbyterian Church**  
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Moorestown, NJ 08057  
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**Connect. Devote.  
Serve. Worship.**

**COVID-19 Advisory  
Sunday, April 26**

**The church 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 from computer, phone or tablet to [www.fpcmoorestown.org](http://www.fpcmoorestown.org) or [YouTube](#) or [Facebook](#) (see page 3). 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](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**

**April 26-May 3, 2020**

## Way of the Week 18

**ASK FOR HELP.** Part of being a real and authentic member of the church is to acknowledge your weaknesses and to be willing to ask for God's help and the support of others. None of us can go it alone. Vulnerability is a sign of strength and a gift to others.  
**Read:** Psalm 107:6; 2 Corinthians 12: 9; 1 Corinthians 15: 10

## GRACE NOTES

### *An Ever-Present Help in Trouble*

IN EARLY MARCH, Frank and I went to Florida, thinking we would be there for ten days. Shortly after arriving, COVID-19 changed the world, and suddenly all the plans we had for extensive business travel for the rest of the month were scrapped, and all our in-person meetings were moved to Zoom. Instead of being here for ten days, we are going on seven weeks! While I have felt conflicted about being here much of the time, there have been some definite perks of sheltering in Florida; number one on my list has been the opportunity to work much of the time while sitting outside. We have a patio with a roof over it which shields us from the sun but not the breezes.

During our second week here, we noticed that two small blackbirds seemed to be building a nest inside one of the columns that holds up the roof to our patio. The columns are apparently hollow, and there is space between the roof and the top of the column small enough for the birds to slip into. Somewhere around week five, we heard animated chirping from inside the column and realized that not only had they laid eggs, but that the eggs had hatched. For days we watched as one or the other of the birds would leave the column, fly back with a worm, and dive headfirst back inside to a chorus of "Cheep! Cheep! Cheep!" They did this continually from sun up to sun down.

Last Wednesday, I noticed that the birds had stopped coming and going. I paid close attention, and there was no activity around the column. I googled how long birds usually stay in the nest and determined that it was too early for the babies to leave and that they likely had not survived for whatever reason. This made me incredibly sad, as their birth was a reminder that life goes on, and that there was still some normalcy in the world.

The next morning, I brought my laptop outside to do something I was dreading; we were about to have a second round of furloughs at work, and I needed to review this final list. I have worked in my family's business for 34 years, and we had never furloughed anyone. To make sure that we have a strong company to which our folks could return however, it was a necessary action in these unprecedented times. I sat reviewing this list and a feeling of heaviness washed over me like I had never felt before. I closed my laptop and just prayed. I told God I needed help and I needed strength. Then, as if on cue, one of the blackbirds flew to the top of the column, launched headfirst in there, to a greeting of lively cheeps. Tears of relief came to my eyes. I felt that God was reminding me that he was with me, and the heaviness lifted. This was still going to be hard, but I, along with our people, am in God's hands, "...our refuge and strength, and ever-present help in trouble." God will see us through.

*Mindy Holman*

## Strawberry Festival Postponed



Due to current COVID-19 restrictions and uncertainty surrounding any potential lessening of those parameters, the Session has postponed the annual Strawberry Festival scheduled for June 5, 2020. Once a clearer position is set by the State, and when and if large gatherings are permitted, we will joyously announce a date for our community to gather.

### **April Session Meeting** **Tuesday, April 28** **7:00 p.m.**

**(via videoconference)**

Session packet materials are due to Jan Martin by **Friday, April 24**

### **Friday Nighters**

Out of concern for the safety of our members, the Friday Nighters will not be meeting in October. Information about further meetings will be forthcoming in the fall.

## **Evening Prayer Service** **Thursday, April 30**

On Thursday evenings we offer a weekly oasis 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](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? Please email or text Stuart Spencer your requests by **Wednesday 9:00 a.m.** and he will be happy to include them. Contact Stuart at:

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

⇒ Cell/Text: (215) 932-4531

Please include your name with your request.

## **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 mowed, brush cleared



### **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](http://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 (see pg. 3).

### **It's a 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.



### 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](mailto:dheller374@comcast.net) to schedule your appointment or visit [www.redcross.org](http://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!

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

#### **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.

### **Watching Worship (Live Stream)**

- ◆ 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning
- ◆ 7:00 p.m. Thursday evening Prayer Service

Log on from your computer, smartphone or tablet as we worship apart but together with online services:

1. [www.fpcmoorestown.org](http://www.fpcmoorestown.org)
2. [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) (Subscribe to our channel)
3. [Our Facebook page](#) (Like us)

### **Register for Training: How to Make Disciples**

COMING: A follow-up session on Disciple Making will be held **Saturday, May 2 (8:45 am check-in, 9 am-noon)** and will be conducted via Zoom for Elders, Deacons, Trustees, APNC, Program Staff and interested members and friends. [REGISTER ONLINE](#) on the church website (Events). The Zoom Meeting ID and Password will be emailed to registered participants. Did you miss the first session with Ed & Debby Gross on Feb. 29th? You can watch it on our [webpage \(live stream\)](#).

### **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 church events. Look for the Church Center app and get connected.



### **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!



### **Spring Prayer Retreat June 16-19, 2020**

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

### **Can We Help?**

If you find you need help, please email the church at [assistance@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:assistance@fpcmoorestown.org) or leave a message on the church voice mail at (856) 235-1688. Our Deacons are ready to lend a hand with errands or needs and want to keep you safe. Be well, be strong, be home.





# FAMILY MINISTRY



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

### Thank You Collage

**FAMILIES:** We would like to do our part in encouraging and supporting first responders by inviting all of the children in Family Ministries to draw a thank you picture that will be turned into a large collage to be sent out to first responders around the country. The drawing can be as creative as they would like but should include the words "Thank You" and their *first name* somewhere on the drawing. Once the drawing is done please take a clear photo of the drawing and send it to Holly at [hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org). **Deadline: April 29**

### **Youth: Register Now for Summer 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:Dave Fauvell) 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

**"For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it."**

(1 Thessalonians 1: 8) NRSV

For Families and Children:  
**Holly Asciutto**  
856-235-1688, x116  
[hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:hasciutto@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: "(Not So) Far Away"**

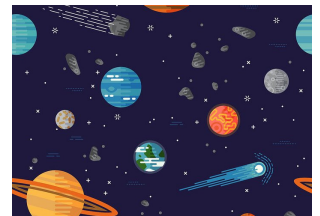
Hello Families,

*I know many of your children are back in online school after a spring break. The reality has hit some of the kids of this being more of a long term issue than a quick fix and back to normal life. Please know that our staff is praying for each of you and care genuinely for you. If you have any specific needs or would like to talk, please reach out to me or Pastor Stuart or Kelly LePenske. We love you and are here for you all. This week I hope you feel the love of Jesus holding you close. My prayer is as you do this activity with your children that you feel His love, care, and presence right there in your home. The Bible tells us that Jesus is a friend that sticks closer than a brother. (Proverbs 18:24) - Holly*

**To prepare:** gather some pictures of things that are far away from us. They can be pulled up on the computer — things like the moon, the sun, planets, galaxies, etc.

**Ask your children:** If you could name something that is the farthest possible distance away from you, what would that thing be? What is something that is really far away from you? (Discuss distant objects with children, and, if desired, show them the pictures of faraway objects.)

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



**We love you and MISS you!!**  
**We know you are doing great with online school. We are so proud of you.**