

FAMILY MINISTRY



Sunday School is amazing! Dive in 9:45-10:45 a.m.



Kingdom Kids, Crossing Zone, and Family Dinner are on Winter Break until January. Activities resume **Wednesday, January 29!**

We're Back from Winter Break!

- ♦ Wave resumes **Sunday, January 12.**
- ♦ Flock resumes **Wednesday, January 15.**

High School Retreat

January 24-26, 2020 ~ Lake Champion, NY

Our high schoolers will be away later this month for a retreat as they reconnect with God, worship and engage with each other. This weekend has been a formative one for students from our Church for many years. Please pray for our students, staff and chaperones.

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

Memory Verse

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

- Romans 8:1

For Families and Children:
Holly Ascitutto
856-235-1688, x116
hascitutto@fpcmoorestown.org

For Families and Youth:
Dan Wonneberger
856-745-6596 (cell/text)
dwonneberger@fpcmoorestown.org

2020-21 Registration OPEN for current preschool families
January 6-21, 2020

Registration for other families at Open House
Tuesday, January 21, 2020 (see page 2)

Don't Forget our Chick-Fil Dine and Donate on Jan. 23!

Preschool Registration



Martin Luther King Day of Service Event

Monday, January 20, 2020

9-11 am: Trinity Episcopal Church (207 W. Main Street, Moorestown)

Registration Required by 1/15/20: (856) 235-0811 with Deacon Leslie Mazzacano

"Happy Birthday Party" - bring items for birthday boxes (cake mix, frosting, candles, plates, napkins, small gift) to assemble and bless birthday boxes to donate to Catholic Charities; birthday cake! FREE

Way of the Week

3. LISTEN GENEROUSLY. Be quick to listen and do so with your undivided attention. Minimize the distractions and let go of the need to agree or disagree. Suspend your judgment and be curious to know more rather than jumping to conclusions. Above all, listen to *understand*.

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

Kelly LePenske
Director of
Congregational Ministry

WORSHIP HOURS
- 8:30 am Traditional
- 11:00 am Contemporary

Connect. Devote.
Serve. Worship.

EDUCATION HOUR
9:45-10:45 a.m.
Sunday, January 12

Nursery: Preschool Wing
3-4 Years: Room 15
Grades K-1: Room 13
Grades 2-3: Room 10-11
Grades 4: Room 7
Grades 5-6: Room 3-4
CREDO: resumes in May
Middle School: 3rd Floor

Adult Education:
♦ 3 C's Class
♦ NEW: Building Blocks of Prayer (see page 3)

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



Connections



First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

January 12-19, 2020

GRACE NOTES / FPC Moorestown Way of the Week

January 12-19, 2020



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Scriptures: James 1: 19, 20; Proverbs 18:13; Proverbs 12:15

IF YOU'RE ANYTHING LIKE ME (aka human), chances are high that you've interrupted someone, raised your voice when you've lost your patience, or you've jumped to conclusions before hearing the rest of the story. We resort to this kind of behavior not because we want to, but because we're so wrapped up in ourselves. Our time. Our agendas. Our egos. Our pain.

What would happen if you slowed down for a moment to cherish the person in front of you? What if you surrendered the need to be right or to get your way? What if, instead of treating someone as a means to your end, you simply treated them as a person deeply loved by God? If this sounds too difficult, maybe a good place to start is by remembering that God deeply loves you, even on your messiest days.

In 1 Samuel 1, a depressed woman named Hannah goes to the temple to pray. It's the same temple where Eli works, the local high priest. Hannah's been unable to have children for years, and because others have mocked her for just as long, she's deeply depressed. When she begins to talk to God, praying passionately but quietly, Eli watches her from the sidelines. Instead of showing Hannah pastoral compassion when she's visibly upset or listening to understand, Eli interrupts her prayer. Surely her mumbling confirms that she's drunk! And there's no room in the temple, or on Eli's watch, for a woman like her.

When Eli confronts Hannah, she tells him the rest of the story: "No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD. I have been speaking out of my great anxiety all this time." Man... even high priests get it wrong sometimes! And so do we when we're quick to dismiss the person right in front of us. Listen generously this week. It could transform someone's heart, even your own.

Kelly LePenske

White cotton socks for the Christian Caring Center can be put in the blue socks box in the Commons Lobby (see page 2)

Seeking Elders, Deacons and Trustees

The Nominations Committee is currently seeking individuals to staff the three Boards of the church: Elders, Deacons and Trustees. How can you serve your church best? See nomination form on our web site and pray about where God may be calling you.

[Sign up online!](#)

PW Winter Gathering Mon. Jan. 13 (10 a.m.)

All women of the church are invited to the PW Winter Gathering on Monday, January 13, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Director of Congregational Ministry Kelly LePenske presents "Living the Psalms" followed by a soup lunch. Warm your soul and your body, and please bring white **cotton socks** to warm the feet of clients at the Christian Caring Center.

INFORMATION: Contact Susan Masiko at (856) 630-3253; susan.masiko@comcast.net.

They've Shipped!

The meals from the [Rise Against Hunger](#) Experience in October with The Church Has Left the Building, have been shipped in a container totaling 285,120 meals from the Philadelphia warehouse. **We made 15,000 of those meals!** The meals will be received by in-country partner Family Legacy Missions in Zambia, who nourishes lives through food assistance and other services in Zambia. Thank you for generously giving your time as a volunteer with Rise Against Hunger. What an incredible team! Learn more at www.riseagainsthunger.org.

Preschool Open House

Tuesday, January 21, 2020
6:30-8:00 pm

KPMLS Sees "Prayer Through Jesus' Eyes"

The Ken Peacock Memorial Lecture Series, in collaboration with the FPCM Prayer Team, proudly offers a two-day seminar on Scripture based, Spirit motivated prayer combining the principles of Paul Miller's *A Praying Life* with "The Person of Jesus" study version of Love Walked Among Us. Pastor Keith Grant, an actor, corporate trainer, and *A Praying Life* trainer, has discovered a marriage of his teaching gifts and his passion for Jesus. Keith will also be our guest preacher on Sunday, Jan. 26.

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Friday, January 24

Check-in 6:00 pm, Seminar 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 25

Event continues 8:30 a.m. – noon

FREE admission. [Register online](#) by **January 14th** to ensure enough materials. Questions, contact the church office (856) 235-1688. Visit www.fpcmoorestown.org—Events.

Preschool Registration

Registration for the 2020-21 school year **for current preschool families** is currently OPEN until January 21, 2020 when we will start accepting registration from families not currently at Step by Step. Registration is first come, first served and payment must be made in order to secure a spot for the 2020-21 school year. After filling out the application and sending in payment, you will be notified via email that we have your paperwork. We do our best to accommodate your first choice but this is not always possible. If we are not able to accommodate a special request, Preschool Director Amy Delgado will reach out to you prior to depositing your registration. Otherwise, registration money is **non-refundable**. For information or questions please contact Director Amy Delgado at adelgado@fpcmoorestown.org or visit www.fpcmoorestown.org/step-by-step-preschool.

IHN Guests here January 12-19 Volunteers Welcomed! (meeting rooms may be moved that week)

Blanket Sunday Offering

[Blanket Sunday](#), sponsored by our Deacons and Church World Service, will be **Sunday, January 26**. Your contributions enable CWS to help families around the world shelter from the elements, recover from disasters and displacement, and help rebuild viable communities. Watch for special bulletin inserts or [give securely online](#).

2020 Giving Envelopes

Look for your 2020 boxed envelope sets in the mail for offerings in the New Year. Or make this year when you try [online giving](#) and go paperless ...



Calling All Chili Lovers!

Come to compete or to eat! Bring your pot o' chili and your appetite to see who has the best chili around. Rather eat than cook? Bring your tasting skills and judge who will be the winner! If the kids don't enjoy chili, they can taste test and judge the Mac and Cheese! There is something for everyone.

Sunday, January 26th

Noon — 2:00 p.m.

Proceeds to benefit Mission Trips

Sign up on the bulletin outside Missionwares to make chili or [online](#) here (and on our FPC web site). Bring in your crockpot of chili with any fixings and table décor- no cost to enter! *Cost: \$5 to taste as many chilis as you would like and get 5 votes. Each additional vote is \$1. We look forward to seeing you there and thank you for helping the Mission Committee raise money for its Mission Trips.

Adult Education

- **January 12, 19 & 26:** *The Building Blocks of Prayer*: Dive into the Old and New Testament as we explore the power of prayer. Arlita Winston leads this 3-week class that connects the ancient prayers of the Israelites, prophets and Jesus to our contemporary lives. This class is a great introduction to "Prayer Through Jesus' Eyes," the 2020 Ken Peacock Memorial Lecture Series on Jan. 24-25 (page 2).
- **9:45 a.m.:** **3 C's class** (Coffee, Conversation & Christ)

January Inquirers Class for New Members

Interested in learning more about us? We want to meet you! Come to the Winter Inquirers class, a 6-week series beginning on **Sunday, Jan. 19**. Classes will be held at 9:45 a.m. Sunday mornings, and introduce various ministries at FPCM. Share and receive information on the meaning of membership in the Presbyterian Church. The group will have lunch with Session on Feb. 23. Those who desire to join our church will be welcomed as new members during worship on March 8th. Child care available upon request. [Reserve your spot online](#) at www.fpcmoorestown.org, or with Alison at (856) 235-1688 or amackey@fpcmoorestown.org.

MLK Day Monday, Jan. 20 Church & Preschool Closed

NEW: "Finding Comfort"

On January 5th, Pastor Spencer began our "Finding Comfort" sermon series. Our pastoral staff will be preaching on biblical themes from the Heidelberg Catechism. The Heidelberg Catechism, released in 1563, is one of the primary Reformed summaries of the faith that emerged from the Protestant Reformation. Today the Catechism remains a guide for preaching in many Reformed churches as the Catechism includes summary observations on key topics like the Apostles' Creed, the Ten Commandments, and the Lord's Prayer. For a full version of the Catechism visit: <https://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/confessions/heidelberg-catechism>

THANK YOU, Church!

We are grateful for the many in our church who enabled us to pay all of our bills at year-end and move into 2020 with our books balanced!

Good Luck, Dan

During the Education hour on **Sunday, Feb. 2**, we will have a reception to honor Dan Wonneberger, who has accepted a post as Student Ministry Director of Redeemer Church (ECO) in Snellville, GA. His last Sunday will be Feb. 2, when he will preach both services. Monetary love gifts may be sent to the church office (ATTN: Norm Vandergrift) by cash or check. Checks should be made out to **First Presbyterian Church** and MUST have "Gift for Dan Wonneberger" on the memo line. *NOTE: This contribution will not be included as part of your giving to the church and is not tax-deductible.* Checks are due to the church office by **noon Friday, Jan. 31**. You may also bring your gift on Feb. 2. Checks that day must be made out directly to Dan.

Annual Congregational Meeting & Lunch Sunday, February 2, 2020

12:15 pm ~ Fellowship Hall
Light lunch provided by Deacons

The Annual Report will be available on Sunday, Jan. 26 to review before the Congregational Meeting.

February 6 Lunch Bunch

Step by Step Preschoolers' Valentine presentation!
Fellowship Hall ~ 12 noon

Watch for "fan"tastic news about our February Lenten Book Study ...