

First Presbyterian Church
101 Bridgeboro Road
Moorestown, NJ 08057
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

**The church campus is
CLOSED.**

Join us from the safety of your home for a live stream worship service Sunday morning 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 or [YouTube](#) or [Facebook](#) (see page 2). 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

FPC 
Moorestown

First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

July 12-26, 2020

Way of the Week 4 (July 12-19)

4. ALWAYS ENCOURAGE AND CELEBRATE. Show gratitude and appreciation by regularly acknowledging the good works you see everywhere. Look for signs of spiritual growth and maturity among our members and staff. When you see it, point it out and rejoice. Pass on good reports that you hear about others.



- ◆ *We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly. As we pray to our God and Father about you, we think of your faithful work, your loving deeds, and the enduring hope you have because of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 1: 3, 4)*
- ◆ *When the church at Jerusalem heard what had happened, they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw this evidence of God's blessing, he was filled with joy, and he encouraged the believers to stay true to the Lord. (Acts 11: 22, 23)*

Ideas for Action: Write a text or a note to someone close to you who just did something wonderful or important. With many details, tell them why you're grateful or delighted by them. [Watch the Way of the Week 4 Video from Pam Engle](#)

Way of the Week 5 (July 19-26)

5. ASSUME POSITIVE INTENT. Decide to trust that other members are being fair, honest, and concerned for the well-being of our church. Set aside your own judgments and preconceived notions. Surrender the urge to criticize and judge – it doesn't help. Graciously give people the benefit of the doubt.



- ◆ *Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins. (1 Peter 4: 8)*
- ◆ *Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. For you will be treated as you treat others. (Matthew 7: 1)*
- ◆ *Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. (1 Corinthians 13: 4-7)*

Ideas for Action: Take a "criticism inventory." Just how critical are you, really? Ask someone you love and trust to tell you how you're doing in this area. Try a 24-hour fast from all forms of criticism. No complaining or criticism for an entire day.

Videos: Round 4 Ways

Each week we hope to feature an individual presenting the Way of the Week, sharing a video of his or her thoughts and a personal illustration about that fundamental. Videos should be 2-3 minutes and will be posted to our YouTube channel and linked to bulletins and *Connections*. **If you'd like to provide one, please do!** Contact [Jan Martin](#) in the church office and select your favorite Way. Children AND adults encouraged.

Book Club July 20 (Zoom)

The third book in our Book Club is *The Promise of a Pencil* by Adam Braun. The book chronicles how Braun left a prestigious position in the financial world to find his calling, and has since built 250 schools. A riveting best seller. Log on to Zoom for a 6:00 pm event.

Zoom Meeting ID and Password:

Meeting ID: 836 9588 8226

Password: 9FqaKf

NOW: See all our upcoming books!

Prayer Team Zoom

The FPC Moorestown Prayer Team invites you to pray with them through Zoom. Join others at one of the Prayer Times by clicking the [REGISTER](#) button on the FPC website (Events) to complete a Meeting ID request. A member of the Prayer Team will email you a Zoom Meeting ID link and password. Would you like to pray with others at a time/day not listed? TEXT the Prayer Chain Support number, **609-923-4135** or make a note in the comments box on the REGISTER form.

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:

1. www.fpcmoorestown.org
2. www.youtube.com
3. [Our Facebook page](#)

Summer Prayer Walks

What? Prayer Walk for our families, neighborhoods, communities, churches, businesses, schools, government.

Why? Pray for relationships, equity, prosperity, salvation, God's help and peace ... and revival -- turning to Him in our needs, with praise/gratitude

When? Sat. July 25 and Sat. Aug. 22 – 9 am gathering; walk or drive

Where? Each person/pair/family chooses their own route: their neighborhood, shopping/business district, the schools, the government buildings, churches. Meet at our Prayer Labyrinth at 9 am

How? On foot or car/bike/other
[See information on our website](#)



Summer Sermon Series

From Sunday, July 12th to August 30th, the pastoral staff preaches a series of sermons called, "Walking the JT (Jesus Trail)" based on the narrative of Abraham and Sarah from Genesis 12 to Genesis 22. Hearing and believing the incredible and impossible call of God to begin a family at an advanced age and go to land not their own, Sarah and Abraham traveled by stages to the promise (Genesis 12:9). Their walk is much like walking the Appalachian Trail (AT). The journey is long and often exhausting. However, this is an enduring picture of the life of faith and another view of the following Jesus as disciples.

Memory Verse: "For we walk by faith, not by sight." (2 Corinthians 5:7, NRSV)

Session Authors Statement on Racial Injustice

At its stated meeting on June 23, 2020, Session approved, by a majority vote, the following resolution: [A Response to Racial Injustice from the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown](#) (see our website events page). This statement concluded nearly two weeks of conversation, prayer, writing, and debate among the members of Session over the course of two meetings. The tragic killing of George Floyd at the hands of the authorities and other similar heart-rending deaths have brought forth a moment for our nation. A moment like this calls for both a response and leadership, as we seek to be instruments of God's peace and agents of His reconciliation.



Moment for Mission

(Zoom) with Pastor Leon

Join the Mission Committee Monday, July 27th at 7:00 pm via Zoom for a Moment for Mission with Pastor Leon Dorleans, founder of [Haiti Outreach Ministries](#). Spend 30 minutes learning about how the ministry is coping during the COVID-19 pandemic. Haiti Outreach Ministries began in 1990 with Leon as the founding director. Over the last 25 years, Leon has led HOM on the ground in Haiti, leading efforts to build churches, schools and clinics as well as developing the leaders in Haiti needed to sustain the ministry. His wife Jacky is the superintendent of all primary schools with an enrollment of more than 1,300 students and a new secondary school in Baryé Fé, which opened in Sept. 2015.

Zoom info:

- Meeting ID: 830 4142 8513
- Password: 2fbMLf
- [Zoom link here](#)

Task Forces Address Reopening Questions

Task forces appointed by Session and the Long Range Planning team continue to study, discuss recommendations, research and investigate the multi-faceted impact of reopening. Areas of emphasis include personal health and safety, logistics, Sunday worship, small groups, staff protocol and outside building usage. Administration is balancing directives from local, state, and national bodies. No date has been determined for a reopening of worship or activities.

New Ways Study Guide

In June, we began Round 4 of The Ways. Since January 2019, we have thoughtfully studied the Ways each week as we strive to live them together and give intentional, focused attention to how to best "be the church." This updated study guide is designed to help you understand each Way with applicable Bible verses and suggested Ideas for Action. Share this guide with your friends, and invite them to travel along with us as we strengthen the loving culture of FPC Moorestown. We also offer a daily devotional for the 25 Ways. Look for an online [copy of this Study Guide](#) to download. If you would like a hard copy, simply call the church office at (856) 235-1688 and leave a message.

July Session Meeting
Tuesday, July 28
Session Packet Deadline:
Friday, July 24 (12 noon)

Summer "Connections"
Connections prints every two weeks in the summer. The weekly eblast continues each Friday. Are you on our mailing list?

Our Beautiful Grounds

Thank you to our friends at Leonberg Nursery, who once again donated 18 yards of mulch to our church – approx. \$600. We are so grateful for this gift which will allow our property staff to further beautify our grounds. Leonberg Nursery is located at 810 N. Lenola Road in Moorestown; (856) 234-7590.



Take a Virtual Mission Trip

Pack your virtual bags for a "Virtual Mission Trip" July 19-26, to step out of your comfort zone, engage with deep and relevant content, and connect with one another as we learn and stretch together--all from the safety of our homes! We will review about 30 minutes of learning content each day and come together 4 times through the week on a video conference to discuss what we have watched, learned and experienced. This can be done as an individual or as a family. Even if you cannot participate the whole time with our group, we encourage you to participate in what you can with us and do the rest on your own.

Register today at <https://www.the504spark.com/> and use coupon code "moorestown504" to include yourself with our group plus get \$15 off registration. Once registered, participants will receive general information from the 504 Spark platform and specific information pertaining just to our group from [Kourtney de la Cruz](#). Check out our website for a [video](#) about the trip.

Check It Out!

- New console desk in Fellowship Hall to manage overhead projector, controls, new audio
- Lifted cemetery markers
- Check-in system for attendance
- Multi-camera live stream video
- Reconstructed staff entrance
- New church-wide phone system
- Re-engineered sound in the loft
- Upgraded computer security
- Health and safety protocols

FAMILY MINISTRY



We'll see you at Vacation Bible School



Wednesday Family Activity (Week 3)

Dear Families,

We are taking a break from our regular format and going to work through a summer activity guide called "**Great and Small,**" **Guide to the Most Okayest Summer Ever** written by the saltproject.org. As you can tell by the title, there is no pressure. It is laid back with several activities to try as a family each week if you choose. I pray you take this time to rest and connect deeper with each other and God our creator!

Love, Holly

[Read this week's complete activity ...](#)

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 we walk by faith, not by sight."
(2 Corinthians 5:7, NRSV)

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

Hop on Board the Rocky Railway VBS!

- ◆ **DATES: AUGUST 10-14, 2020 ~ 9:30-11:00 a.m.**
- ◆ Children entering Kindergarten through entering 6th grade (FALL 2020). In signups please enter **current grade**.
- ◆ Cost: \$0 per child. **REGISTRATION DEADLINE: July 27th**

At Rocky Railway VBS, kids climb aboard for mountains of fun! On this faith filled adventure kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs!

This will be a modified week with necessary precautions in place for a safe, in person, Vacation Bible School for our children. We are working hard to develop a unique, spiritually meaningful program in the midst of evolving guidelines.

Safety will be our highest priority, for both our children and staff. At no time will either be compromised. All efforts will be made to abide by state, local and FPC Moorestown guidelines that are in place at that time. VBS will not look like it has in the past. It will be a creative modified version. The program will consist of Biblical teachings done in an engaging yet safe manner. For example, social distancing will require a limitation on recreation, music, snacks, etc.

Registration is **OPEN**. [Sign up on our church website](#) through July 27th. There is no charge for participants this year.

Have questions? We encourage you to reach out to VBS Director Holly Asciutto at hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org or (856) 235-1688, ext. 116. It is important, and our desire, to offer our children this valuable experience in a safe manner. We continue to pray daily for our families. YES — we're looking for adult and teen volunteers (7th grade and older)!