

# FAMILY MINISTRY



**GOOD LUCK with your last week of remote learning!**

## VBS Moves to August 10-14

In an effort to provide a safe, in person, Vacation Bible School for our children we have moved VBS a few weeks later to **August 10-14**. We're hoping this will allow us to deliver a modified VBS with the necessary precautions in place at that time. With each day bringing new information and evolving guidelines, we are prayerfully hopeful and working hard towards a spiritually meaningful program.



## Our Youth Are Connecting

This spring the middle schoolers and high schoolers have been staying connected through Instagram and Zoom. We have been reading through the scripture together using Instagram to keep up with each other. Over Zoom the middle schoolers have been discussing dating and relationships through the lens of a Christ-focused life. The high schoolers have been using Zoom to talk through things that make faith difficult and how we can stay strong in faith despite the challenges.

- Dave Fauvell, Interim Youth Director

## 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

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## "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made"

Dear Parents,

*I hope and pray you are all well and looking forward to the end of school with summer around the corner. This week instead of giving you a word for word devotion for your family, I am sending scripture with some thoughts, a craft, and a memory verse. As a family read the scripture together in a Bible version that your children understand, (the NIV is great for kids) and then discuss what it means. I have provided some notes below. After, if you choose, make the craft together, and while working on the craft, repeat Psalm 139:14. We will do something later this month with this verse, so talk about it as a family and try to memorize God's word together. We are keeping you in prayer.*

For His kids,  
Holly

**Read:** [Genesis 1:26-31](#)

**Devo:** Genesis 1:26-31 begins when God pauses and says, "Let us make human beings so that they are like us." He went on to say that people should rule over all the animals on the ground and the birds in the heavens. People, made in God's image, is an extension of his rule and dominion. People reflect God's glory throughout the earth. When you read all the way to verse 31, you discover what God thinks about his creation: It's "very good." This declaration ("Very good!") applies to every human person. As descendants of Adam and Eve, we all carry God's image. We all have dignity. There is only one human race, and each member of humankind is God's image-bearer. People from every tribe, nation, ethnicity, and of every skin color all bear God's image.

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

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**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](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**

**June 14-21, 2020**

## Way of the Week 25

25. The Kingdom of God is a party! Let healthy laughter fill our meetings, our meals, and even our worship. Allow the joy of our faith to be clearly evident in our speech and on our faces.

**Read:** Luke 15: 22-24; Philippians 4: 4; Proverbs 17: 22

## Grace Notes

TODAY IS MY BIRTHDAY. The big 55. I now am a senior citizen. Woo hoo! Discounts galore and the ability to move into a 55 and older community. I look forward to celebrating!

As I write to you, I think back to February when I visited Kubiri, Uganda, and saw the work of a ministry called Reach One Touch One. The focus of this ministry is caring for senior citizens which I am now officially part of that club. In Uganda, many grandparents are raising their grandchildren during this advanced period of their lives in homes that are primitive with no running water or electricity. Other diseases such as AIDS have taken their children leaving them to be both parent and grandparent. Some have as many as 20 grandchildren in their care. The country does not have government assistance such as social security so these older adults must continue to work to support their families doing whatever they can. The health care available to most is not very good. Poverty is rampant. Schools all require tuition so many children in these situations cannot go to school as their family needs those funds to eat.

I met Mary when I visited. She was all smiles as she introduced me to her two grandchildren. She kept touching my hair and telling me how pretty it was. I felt like an honored guest at a party. She was completely gray with deep wrinkles. I learned she was only three years older than me. She was making mats to sell in the market. It took her an entire week to make one and she netted \$2 after costs of materials which was all she had to support her family. I bought and brought home Mary's mat as a memory from my trip. Mary told me how blessed by God she was to have her home and a means to make money and support her family. She made a gift of popcorn kernels to me that she had grown behind her house. I was so touched. She also prayed for me before I left and gave me an incredible hug. Her smile never left. Even with so little, Mary's life was a celebration.

As I sit in my home and complain about not being able to hit my favorite restaurant to celebrate this milestone birthday, I also sit and count my blessings. The things I have had to give up don't even come close to what this pandemic has done in countries like Uganda. I am still able to work and talk to friends. I have technology which allows me to reach the world just not all parts of Uganda. Since visiting homes and families in Uganda, I pray daily for these families who are followers of Jesus and who struggle. I pray for Reach One Touch One to make a difference in the lives of the senior citizens like me. For my birthday, I am determined to spend this year with an attitude of gratitude for all of the blessings that God has given me and, like Mary, make my life a celebration.

Linda Jagiela

### Evening Prayer Service

Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm we offer a weekly 30-minute service of Worship and prayer online. Log onto [www.fpcmoorestown.org](http://www.fpcmoorestown.org) to view the live stream and for the Worship Guide. Email prayer requests, joys and concerns to Pastor Stuart by **WED 9:00 a.m.** at [sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org).

### 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 with 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.

### Summer Prayer Walks Starting

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

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

**When?** 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month June, July, and August – 9 am gathering time; then 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 if preferred via car/bike/other

[See more information on our website](#)

### Book Club

Our next book is *In the Presence of my Enemies*, by Gracia Burnham, detailing the harrowing year she and her husband Martin spent as hostages in the Philippine jungle. We will meet on **Monday, June 15** at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.

**Meeting ID: 842 7574 0596**  
**Password: 5z18gW**

### Videos: Round 4 Ways

On Sunday, June 21 we will begin our fourth round of The Ways. We are looking for individuals to record brief (2-min. max) videos for this round reading the Way, and providing a personal illustration of this way at work. All ages welcome. Please contact [Jan Martin](#) with which Way you'd like.

### Hosting IHN Guests

We are scheduled to host IHN guests June 21-28 and, due to current conditions, will provide safe hotel accommodations. Food donations would be welcomed. Please label "IHN" and drop off

peanut butter and jelly, individually wrapped snacks, bottled water, Wawa or Shop Rite gift cards, or size 3 or 4 diapers to Chris Catarella's front porch (6 Cambridge Court, Moorestown).

### Submit Calendar Dates

Staff is currently compiling the church calendar for 2020-21 building usage while addressing new logistics and safety. Please email dates for 2020-21 committees, events, concerts, outside groups, small groups or building requests to Alison Mackey **by June 12** ([amackey@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:amackey@fpcmoorestown.org)). It is understood that dates are tentative. Please also note which meetings may be held via Zoom so that can be indicated.

### E-Letters of Well Wishing

If you would like to send an Electronic Letter of Well Wishing signed by our pastoral staff, please email Alison Mackey at [amackey@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:amackey@fpcmoorestown.org) with the recipient's situation and email.

### Spring Gathering via Zoom

All are invited to the Spring Gathering at First Presbyterian Church, hosted by Presbyterian Women. Men and women of ALL AGES are welcome!

- ♦ **When:** Monday, June 22 at 7:00 pm ET
- ♦ **Where:** Online
- ♦ **How:** ZOOM (video conferencing)
- ♦ **Who:** You and a friend (or two, or three ...)
- ♦ **Zoom Meeting ID: 860 8924 6412**  
**Password: 6d3jCG**

**Family First: Keeping the Family in the Family Business.** Keynote Speaker: Mindy Holman, CEO of Holman Enterprises. [Read Mindy's BIO here...](#)

RSVP PLEASE on our website event page at [www.fpcmoorestown.org](http://www.fpcmoorestown.org)



### Incoming Elders, Deacons, Trustees Approved

This was one for the history books. At a Congregational Meeting held via Zoom on Sunday, June 7, the congregation confirmed the election of incoming officers for the Session, Board of Deacons and Board of Trustees. The members on the videoconference, which numbered over 100, accepted the slate of officers placed into nomination by Gil Warren, chair of the Nominations Committee. The officers' term will be 2020-2023 and they will take office July 1. Current officers will be staying on until July 1 during this transition (thank you). Please pray for these new leaders and congratulate them when you see them:

#### Elders (Session)

Gary Bender, Nancy Chumney, Pam Engle, Kevin Fauvell, Gayle Payne, Dave Rebuck

#### Deacons

Mike Hock, Karen Hynoski, Caroline Joyce, Jeff Mason, Mike McNeil, Susan Shaffer, Vicki Terry, Bobbi Voglesong

#### Trustees

Jeff Legath, Frank Manion (2-year term), Patrick McIlroy, Bill Mueller, Mike Ramage



On the Zoom call, there were over 100 members (4 screens!) who were joyous to all "be together"



### NEW! Photo Contest!

The Deacons are hosting a photo contest on June 14 and will be giving away gift PRIZES! Listen for more details in the service on **June 14**. Use your front window or front door to spread joy and encourage others to Rejoice Always that week. Be creative! Take a picture of your creation and post it on the church's [Facebook page](#) with the hashtag #rejoicealways to enter. Entries must be posted by **Thursday, June 18** at midnight. We will announce the winners during worship on June 21.

### Task Forces Address Reopening Questions

In consultation with Pastor Spencer and Session, the Long Range Planning team has developed six separate task forces to gather information and study recommendations regarding the effects of gradual reopening. Areas of emphasis include safety, logistics, Sunday events, small groups, staff and building usage. Administration is adhering to directives from New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy.

### Pentecost COVID-19 Relief Offering

The outpouring was tremendous! Thank you to all who donated to the Pentecost COVID-19 Relief Offering. An unbelievable \$14,500 was raised!

### Officer Orientation

Incoming Elders, Deacons and Trustees are advised of two Wednesday Orientation Meetings on June 10 and June 17 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom and led by Stuart Spencer. Further information has been sent from the church office regarding Questions of Ordination and Installation, as well as a link for the Zoom meeting:

**Meeting ID: 728 8634 9677**  
**Password: 6UbleG**

Officers are also asked to attend the Tuesday, June 23 Zoom Session meeting from 7-8 p.m. to be examined by the elders and share their faith story and particular call to ministry. For questions contact Pastor [Stuart Spencer](#) or Nominations chair [Gil Warren](#).

### Focus: Discipleship

The Prayer Committee, led by chair [Joyce Peacock](#), is developing a plan to address elements of the Discovery Bible Study program into our discipleship strategy. The team is creating Prayer Points and reaching out to DBS leaders. You may view the discipleship trainings on our website Events page.

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

**Connections publishes every two weeks in the summer beginning June 28**