

FAMILY MINISTRY



Good luck with your last few weeks of school!

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

For Families and Children:

Holly Ascitutto

856-235-1688, x116

hascitutto@fpcmoorestown.org

For Families and Youth:

Dave Fauvell

609-980-7885 (cell/text)

dfauvell@fpcmoorestown.org

All The Children of the World

Dear Families,

I pray this finds you safe and well. Please find this week's lesson/activity below. Our staff is praying for you.

We love you all, Holly

Scripture: Acts 10:34-36; 43~ Then Peter replied, "I see very clearly that God shows no favoritism. In every nation, he accepts those who fear him and do what is right. This is the message of Good News for the people of Israel—that there is peace with God through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. He is the one all the prophets testified about, saying that everyone who believes in him will have their sins forgiven through his name." Acts 10:34-36,43 (NLT)

Prepare: A clear glass bowl and some brown eggs and white eggs. If you wish, use markers to decorate some eggs to look like people -- some with yellow hair and blue eyes, black hair and brown eyes, red hair and green eyes. (If you do not have eggs of differing colors, use the internet to print off different types of eggs or just pull them up on your computer for reference)



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

We know you're working hard in online school. You're almost done!

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 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
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 7-14, 2020

Way of the Week 24

24. TELL YOUR STORY. God has done and is doing something unique in your life. Has God answered a prayer, provided help, or blessed you? Share it. Ask God for opportunities to share your faith in Christ by words and deeds.

Read: Luke 8: 39; Psalm 107: 2; Acts 1: 8

Grace Notes

I WAS THIRTY-ONE, flat on my back, weak and in such pain, I was unable to lift a finger. What had happened? I had grown up in the church from cradle roll up with virtually perfect attendance, yet even now as a member of FPC living life 'as best I could,' I had run myself into the ground and was empty. Crises lay bare our real need. Crying out to God to take over, a peace and desire to "know Him" began to well up within. But how?

Thus began a series of connections: I joined a Community Bible Study, led by Arlita Winston. A few months later, a discipling small group became available, and I put myself into that. As I began to learn the "how to's" of reading Scripture, praying, and learning other spiritual principles and disciplines, I was constantly struck with how much more "life" God desired for me to have! But I also came to realize that if I wasn't in a small group going forward in my pursuit of God, I would slip back and lose the vibrancy of connecting personally with Him. The discipling taught me how to follow Him; the small groups connected me with other followers encouraging reliance on the Holy Spirit and accountability to keep growing.

During this COVID sequestering and the current unrest in our nation, our lives are being shaken. Our way of life is being altered. What have we learned we can live without? What have we learned that has renewed us, which we want to keep? How can we better connect with God and His purposes ... that abundant life He promises in the midst of uncertainty all around? How can we grow in being true followers of Christ? How can we deepen our understanding of prayer? I don't know about you, but I'm eager to connect with other seekers and followers in pursuit of Jesus together! Look for our discipleship and prayer initiatives and connect in a small group -- abundant life awaits!

"Go, therefore and make disciples ... teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you...and I will be with you always, to the very end of the age." - Matthew 28:19-20

"And let us consider how we can spur one another on to love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching!" - Hebrew 10:24-25

Elder Joyce Peacock

Evening Prayer Service

On Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm we offer a weekly 30-minute service of Worship and prayer online. Log onto 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 and include your name with your request.

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.

Book Club

Our next book is *In the Presence of my Enemies*, by Gracia Burnham. We will meet on **Monday, June 15** at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.



WOW. We completely filled three SUVs and saw 78 cars stream through the Food Pantry Parade on May 31 to drop off generous amounts of food. Donations were delivered to Christian Caring Center, Bridge of Peace, Ministerium Food Pantry and Seeds of Hope. Pastor Stuart and church leaders personally greeted every car. We were SO happy to see you!



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.

Submit Calendar Dates by June 12 Please

Staff is currently compiling the church calendar for 2020-21 building usage and will meet throughout the summer to address logistics and safety. Please email dates for 2020-21 committee meetings, events, concerts, outside groups, small groups or building requests to Alison Mackey by **June 12** (amackey@fpcmoorestown.org). It is understood that dates are tentative. Please also note which meetings may be held via Zoom. We are trying to include those on the calendar since groups are still meeting just not on-site.

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

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 on our website event page at www.fpcmoorestown.org!

Preschool Honors its Grads!

Step by Step hosted a fantastic car parade for its preschoolers on May 30 as a way for teachers and students to reconnect and say goodbye. Staff decorated the parking lot and waved to every preschool family as they came through the parking lot. Cars were decorated, kids were joyous, and it was an AMAZING DAY!



Officer Training

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. Watch your email for further information 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 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](#).

Officers Extended

Officers for the three boards Session (Elders), Deacons and Trustees will be extended through June 30, instead of concluding terms on May 31. Thank you for your continued service in this challenging time.

Home Communion Sunday, June 7

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!

Special Meeting of the Congregation June 7, 2020 (via Zoom)

Zoom Meeting ID: 850 7636 2315

Password: 6BH45E

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown, New Jersey has called a special meeting of the congregation. This meeting will be held **Sunday, June 7, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.**, immediately following the 9:30 am live stream worship service. Check-in on Zoom will begin at 10:30 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is to elect Elders, Deacons and Trustees to a term of office beginning July 1, 2020. No other business may be brought before the congregation other than the preceding item.

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 hashtag #rejoicealways to enter. Entries must be posted by Thursday, **June 18** at midnight. We will announce the winners during worship on June 21.

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.

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.

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:

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

Letters of Well Wishing

We have created an Electronic Letter of Well Wishing, which is "e-signed" by the pastoral staff. To have a letter sent on behalf of our congregation, email Alison at amackey@fpcmoorestown.org with the recipient's situation and email.

**I thank my God
every time I
remember you.
In all my prayers for
all of you, I always
pray with joy**

Philippians 1:3-4