

First Presbyterian Church
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**Connect. Devote.
Serve. Worship.**

COVID-19 Advisory

**The church campus is
CLOSED until further
notice.**

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 sanc-
tuary and participants ob-
serve strict physical dis-
tancing. Log on from com-
puter, 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

First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

May 10-17, 2020

Way of the Week 20

FIND STRENGTH IN BELONGING. At FPC Moorestown, you're loved and valued. Claim us as your family. Rather than withdrawing, allowing struggles and disappointments to deepen your sense of belonging. Pray for chances to bring healing to relationships. Please be patient! God isn't yet finished with us or with you.

Read: Romans 14: 7-9; Acts 2: 46; Matthew 12: 25; Psalms 103: 8

GRACE NOTES

"One reason that avoiding conflict is such a problem is precisely because it worsens with negligence. It doesn't just go away. But another reason is that it cuts us off from the most significant opportunities for grace. This is the way God does his deepest work in a world like ours. Not when things are peachy keen, not when all seems right with the world, not when times are easy. It's the toughest times, the hardest conversations, the most painful relational tensions, when the light of his grace shines brightest, and transforms us most into his Son's likeness."

David Mathis, Executive Editor DesiringGod.org

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/conflict-is-an-opportunity-for-grace>

SOME YEARS AGO, I offered some counsel to a married couple who were working together on a few issues. While their marriage wasn't in danger of ending, they were in a difficult place as they faced some conflicts they were having. I had a chance to speak to their marriage therapist. She told me that she hoped this couple could resolve their conflicts not just for the sake of resolution but also because it's really good for a marriage when a husband and wife can work together on something hard. The bonds of love and fidelity grow stronger through the strain of stress.

I think the same hope holds for church members when we have to navigate through hurt, disappoint and differences of all kinds. The easiest thing to do is to close your Bible and go home. It's harder to go to the one who is upset. Yet love takes us there. For real love, biblical love, is patient and kind, not easily offended while never giving up. It's so much easier to write those words than to live them. However, as we turn into the thing we don't want to do, most times we'll be surprised how the grace of God is awaiting us. You can be certain that God wants to heal broken relationships far more than you do.

FPC Moorestown: Receive God's grace to find strength in belonging to one another.

Stuart Spencer, Pastor

Happy 2nd Anniversary, Pastor Stuart!

NEW: Zoom Coffee Hour

YOU'RE INVITED to a new Virtual Coffee Hour every Sunday morning from 11:00 AM–Noon. Drop in for casual conversation, connect with new and old friends, discuss the sermon, and enjoy time together on Zoom. Participants will join small breakout groups of 6-10 people guided by a facilitator. Access from your smart phone, tablet or computer. **Meeting ID and Password are on our [FPC Events Page](#).**

Evening Prayer Service

On Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm we offer a weekly oasis to gather in community; a 30-minute service of worship and prayer. Log onto www.fpcmoorestown.org and for that week's Worship Guide. Submit prayer requests, joys or concerns to Stuart Spencer by **WED 9:00 a.m.** and he will include them. Contact Stuart at sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org or cell/text: (215) 932-4531. Please include your name with your request.

Prayer Team Zoom

The FPC Moorestown Prayer Team invites you to pray with a team member through Zoom. During this turbulent time of COVID-19, the FPC Prayer Team is grateful you are seeking God and believes our Lord is reaching out to you for comfort, assurance, and answers. We have set up a Weekly Prayer schedule through Zoom—you're invited. [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. Contact [Jim Cole](#), [Arlita & Joe Winston](#), [Pam & Steve Engle](#), or [Joyce Peacock](#). 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.



PRAYER TEAM

Our Full-Time

Director of Outreach

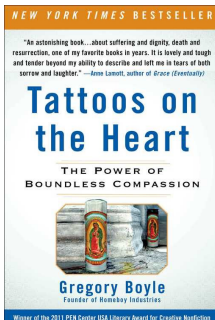
Lost among all the changes at FPC Moorestown amid the COVID-19 pandemic is that **Linda Jagiela** is now serving full-time as our Director of Outreach. In recent weeks, Linda has been extra busy staying in touch with our local and international mission partners. She's also been an important guide to the Missions Committee, the Board of Trustees and Session in leading efforts to help others in need. Linda's helpful and difference-making full-time presence brings to a conclusion months-long planning to bring our staff to a place of full strength. Linda and her husband, Philip have been with us three years. We give thanks to God!

Spring Prayer Retreat

June 16-19, 2020

has been CANCELLED

It's a Book Club!



We will meet **Monday, May 18th** via Zoom at 6:00 p.m. to discuss *Tattoos on the Heart* by Father Greg Boyle. If you have not read or finished the book, please feel free to still join the discussion.

The [discussion questions](#) can be accessed on our church website events page as well as the Zoom link.

- ◆ Zoom Meeting ID: 823 7844 9904
- ◆ Password: 7h0WVL

You can learn more about the book by watching talks that Father Greg has given.

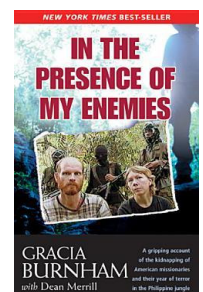
Consider watching this Ted talk with Father Greg:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ipR0kWt1Fkc>

and a speaking engagement at a university:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-lyMc-eVgU>

COMING UP: 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.





May 11 Blood Drive at FPC Moorestown

There is a critical blood shortage. Our church will be the site for a blood drive **Monday, May 11** from 1-7 pm. *Appointments required.* Contact Debbie Heller at (856) 273-6838 or dheller374@comcast.net to schedule or 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!

Food Pantry Parade and Relief Offering

Do you miss your church? Are you looking for a meaningful way to help that gets you OUT OF THE HOUSE? The Deacons are sponsoring a **Food Pantry Parade!** On Sunday, May 31, Pentecost, we will celebrate the Birthday of the Church by giving "presents" to the local Food Pantry -- without leaving your car.

From 12:30-2:00 p.m., after our worship and Virtual Coffee Hour, drive into the church parking lot and drop off non-perishable food donations from the comfort of your vehicle. Simply drive in a loop and gloved volunteers will retrieve the donations. Please have the items in your trunk and pop the trunk as you approach the drop-off area.

Staff members will be on hand to wave and to bless you. **We miss you!** You may also drop off your special *Pentecost COVID-19 Relief Offering* at that time as well.

Pentecost COVID-19 Relief Offering

NEW: On Sunday, May 31, Pentecost, a special offering will be collected to aid local missions. Please use the special drop down for an online gift, or put "Pentecost COVID-19 Relief Offering" in the memo line of your mailed check. You may also drop off your donation during the Food Pantry Parade on May 31 from 12:30-2:00 p.m. No cash please.

How to Make Disciples

A follow-up training on Disciple Making was held **Saturday, May 2** led by Ed Gross. If you were unable to participate, you may view the training on our website Events page, as well as our first session on Feb. 29th.

Congregational Meeting Sunday, June 7 (Zoom)

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.

Letters of Well Wishing

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? Email Alison Mackey at amackey@fpcmoorestown.org with the recipient's name, brief description, and their email. Alison will send them a Letter of Well Wishing e-signed on behalf of our congregation.

May Session Meeting

Tuesday, May 24, 2020
(videoconference)
Reports due Friday, May 22

Friday Nighters

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

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](#)

PW News

The Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team voted electronically to nominate Carol Morgan to a two-year term as Moderator. Carol will be presented to the membership and sworn in at the Fall Gathering. Please join the Team in celebrating Carol. — Susan Masiko, Moderator

Teacher Appreciation

On Sunday, May 17, Teacher Appreciation Sunday, we will virtually honor our Sunday School, Adult Education and Youth teachers during our 9:30 a.m. service. *Please look for a special insert attached to the bulletin listing these fantastic volunteers.* Thank a teacher today!



FAMILY MINISTRY



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



Youth: Service Trips ON HOLD

Our summer service trips for middle school (Great Escape July 20-25) and high school (Brooklyn Service trip, July 5-10) are ON HOLD due to current conditions. We will let you know as plans develop for these events.

ON
HOLD

Contact Interim Youth Leader [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

For Families and Youth:
Dave Fauvell
609-980-7885 (cell/text)
dfauvell@fpcmoorestown.org

This Week's Family Activity: "Let Your Light Shine"

Dear Families,

Pastor Stuart has been challenging us to be beacons of light as we dig deeper into our discipleship life together. This concept of light is easy for children to grasp. As you teach this mini-lesson with your children, you may also want to sing the old faithful song, "This Little Light of Mine." Most of your children may already know it. One of the verses comes from Matthew 5:15, "Hide it under a bushel, NO!" And kids love this verse because it includes yelling, indoors! You can easily find the song on YouTube, Laurie Berkner Band has a great rendition, [Best Kids Songs - "This Little Light Of Mine"](#). Have some fun with your kids singing and praising God this week.

Still praying for you all and sending my love,
Holly



Prepare: Light bulb and small lamp; or use a string of lights with bulbs.

Scriptures: 1 John 1:5 - "This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all."

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

Send good luck wishes to Connie and Derek Weatherly, Adali and Eli
They are moving to Alaska! (Can you find that on a USA map?)