

First Presbyterian Church
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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 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 24-31, 2020

Way of the Week 22

REST AND REFLECT

Make time in your week to step back from work, school, and stressful demands. Since Christ has freed us, we no longer have to be obsessively driven. Take a walk, play, nap, meet up with friends, share a meal, or just take some time in solitude.

Read: Genesis 2: 2-3; Matthew 11: 28;

Grace Notes

THIS WEEKEND WE STEP BACK from our daily responsibilities for two reasons. First, we honor God by remembering today is the Lord's Day. Secondly, Memorial Day is set apart by our nation to remind us of those who have given their lives for the cause of freedom.

Richard Manning is well known for a number of books written about what he would call 'God's wild love.' When he became a Roman Catholic priest he was asked to take the name of a saint. His best friend was a man named Ray Brennan. They grew up together, went to the same school, played ball -- did everything together. In 1952 they enlisted in the Marine Corps and were sent to Korea. It was a typical combat day in cold Korea when the unthinkable happened. A live grenade was thrown into the foxhole where the two men sat. Manning said he remembered everything in that shocking moment. Ray was eating a Hershey Bar. When the grenade landed his buddy dropped the candy and looked quickly at his friend. A smile crossed his face and then he smothered the grenade with his body. He gave his life for his friend.

Because of this, when he became a priest, Manning took the last name of the his friend (the 'saint' who saved his life) and made it his first. For the rest of his life Richard Manning was known as Brennan Manning. Years later Brennan Manning visited his best friend's mother in Brooklyn. They were talking about Ray. Brennan said, 'We never really talked about friendship or love. I've always wondered what that smile meant at the very end. Did he really love me?' Ray's mother was quick to respond, 'Richard -- of course he loved you, he gave his life for you.' Manning never forgot what she said. A year later Father Manning was struggling with alcohol and he had a dream, a nightmare really. The broken priest was standing in his dream at the foot of the cross, where Jesus hung. He was overwhelmed and he saw the mother of Jesus off to the side. Through his tears he cried, 'Mother Mary -- do you think He really loves me?' Mary looked at the cross then looked at Brennan Manning, 'Oh my son, of course He loves you. Look at him. He's dying for you, so that you might live!'

Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins (1 Peter 4:8). With love for this congregation and its leadership, and also for those who have loved for the sake of freedom! Semper Fi

Jonathan Miller

[Zoom Coffee Hour](#)

YOU'RE INVITED to a Virtual Coffee Hour every Sunday morning in May 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. You may reach Stuart at spencer@fpcmoorestown.org or cell/text: (215) 932-4531. Please include your name with your request.



The church office will be CLOSED Monday, May 25 in observance of Memorial Day

[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.

[Brief Survey: Live Stream](#)

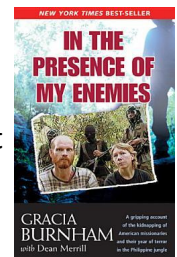
Recently an eblast was sent linking to a brief survey about our live stream worship experience. If you haven't already, please take this 3-minute survey and share how you are accessing the live stream worship services and feedback.

[Provide a Meal](#)

The Deacons have set up a Meal Train for Edith and Milt McFalls to provide meals following Edith's shoulder surgery on May 19. To volunteer to bring a meal for the McFalls, please contact Deacon [Jean Donahue](#) at 857-571-0307 cell/text.

[Book Club](#)

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.



As is our tradition, American flags were placed at the graves of all veterans in our FPC Cemetery for Memorial Day, to honor their sacrifice and service to their country. Thank you to our Property Team for continuing this tradition with honor and respect.

[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!



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.

Food Pantry Parade and Relief Offering

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.

May Session Meeting
Tuesday, May 26, 2020
(videoconference)
Reports due Friday, May 22

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

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 worship service via live stream. Check-in on Zoom will begin by 10:45 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is to elect Elders, Deacons and Trustees to a term of office beginning **July 1, 2020**. Please stay posted to fpcmoorestown.org for more updated information regarding worship status on a week to week basis. No other business may be brought before the congregation other than the preceding item. **Watch for Zoom Meeting ID and Password on our events page.**

Ann McBride, Clerk of Session

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.

Home Communion Sunday, May 31 (Pentecost)

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.

Task Forces Address Reopening Questions

Six separate task forces have been assigned by Session and its Long Range Planning Team to gather information and make initial recommendations regarding the effects of gradual reopening with regards to 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](#)

Officers Extended

Officers for the three boards Session (Elders), Deacons and Trustees will be extended through June 30, instead of concluding terms in May.

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.

Whoever dwells in the
Shelter of the **Most High**
will rest in the
shadow of the **Almighty.**

~Psalm 91:1~

FAMILY MINISTRY

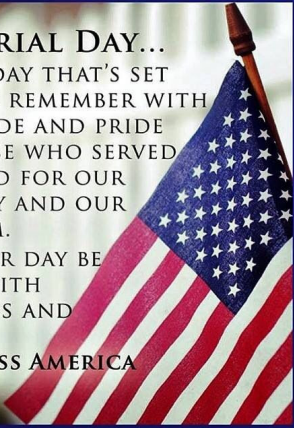


Thank You to our Amazing Teachers and Group Leaders

MEMORIAL DAY...

...IS THE DAY THAT'S SET ASIDE TO REMEMBER WITH GRATITUDE AND PRIDE ALL THOSE WHO SERVED AND DIED FOR OUR COUNTRY AND OUR FREEDOM. MAY YOUR DAY BE FILLED WITH MEMORIES AND PEACE. GOD BLESS AMERICA

GodNine.com



This week our Wednesday Family Activity is taking a break for the Memorial Day weekend.

Enjoy your holiday as we remember those who gave their lives in service to our country.

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 Asciutto

856-235-1688, x116

hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org

For Families and Youth:

Dave Fauvell

609-980-7885 (cell/text)

dfauvell@fpcmoorestown.org

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

Vacation Bible School Delayed to August 10-14

Dear Families,

In an effort to provide a safe, in person, Vacation Bible School for our children we have made the decision to move VBS from July 6-10 to **August 10-14**. We are hoping that 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 cannot promise anything at this point. Just that we are prayerfully hopeful and working hard towards a spiritually meaningful program. To help move forward here are some points we would like to highlight:



1. 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.
2. 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. Social distancing will require a limitation on recreation, music, snacks, etc.
3. Registration will remain open with no charge for participants this year. [Sign up online on the church website!](#)
4. We encourage you to reach out with your questions. You can send questions or concerns to Holly Asciutto at hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org. 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 and are here any time to support and answer questions.

Thank you!