

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

COVID-19 Advisory
Sunday, May 3

**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 3-10, 2020

Way of the Week 19

ACCEPT AND DON'T CAST STONES. God's love opens the doors of our church to all people. Just as Jesus did, welcome people as they are. It's not up to us to judge. Love unconditionally, and as Christ has received you, receive others.

Read: 1 Timothy 2; 6-7; Luke 15: 1-2; Romans 15: 7

GRACE NOTES

LAST SEPTEMBER, Marsha and I had the opportunity to see the Broadway production of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The play was a rendition of Harper Lee's book that many, as I did, read in high school. As you may recall, the plot takes place in a small Alabama town that is suffering through the Great Depression. The main character, Atticus, is a prominent attorney who is widowed and has two children. Atticus defends an African American man who is falsely accused of sexually assaulting a young Caucasian woman. He confronts the racism and prejudice that is exemplified and threaded into the fabric of his community.

Atticus is characterized with absolute consistency. He is a person of high ethical standards and integrity. In spite of the rejection and threats that both he and his children face, he is committed to seeing that justice is served.

In spite of how horribly he is treated, he works to teach his children to seek out what is good in people, not to judge, and to forgive what is bad. He upheld a commitment to principled truth even when he and his children were rejected and ostracized.

The Bible tells us that God accepts us and welcomes us in spite of our sinful nature. When Jesus walked the earth he was a perfect example of accepting and loving others. Jesus, to the dismay of the Scribes and Pharisees showed overwhelming love and mercy to the underserved and judged. He accepted and loved even his persecutors.

Atticus did not reject those that worked to harm him. He worked to maintain an unconditional acceptance of them while not relinquishing his principles. Jesus told us to welcome and show love to all in spite of our differences, and in humility share the riches of God's Grace while proclaiming the truth of the Gospel.

Our church is to be a place where the love of Jesus is proclaimed and where all are welcomed.

Elder Paul Booker

NEW: Zoom Coffee Hour Starts Sunday, May 3

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.*

Strawberry Festival Postponed

Due to current COVID-19 restrictions and uncertainty surrounding any potential lessening of those parameters, the Session has postponed the annual Strawberry Festival scheduled for June 5, 2020. Once a clearer position is set by the State, and when and if large gatherings are permitted, we will joyously announce a date for our community to gather.



Evening Prayer Service

On Thursday evenings we offer a weekly oasis to gather in community by live stream. At 7:00 p.m. we offer a 30-minute service of worship and prayer. Log onto www.fpcmoorestown.org and use the Worship Guide that will be posted for your use. Please submit **prayer requests, joys or concerns** to Stuart Spencer by **Wednesday 9:00 a.m.** and he will be happy to include them. Contact Stuart at:

⇒ sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org

⇒ Cell/Text: (215) 932-4531

Please include your name with your request.

New Officers

Candidates for the incoming classes for Elders, Deacons and Trustees will be presented to Session at its May 26 meeting. For information contact Nominating Committee chair Gil Warren at 856-630-4880 or gkwarren@verizon.net.

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 want to come alongside you. We have set up a Weekly Prayer schedule through Zoom and invite you to take part. [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



Sunday Worship via Live Stream

Tune in! Each Sunday at **9:30 a.m.**, FPC Moorestown hosts a blended worship service streamed LIVE from the Sanctuary and into your homes. Access the service from any device at fpcmoorestown.org/live-stream, [YouTube](#) or [Facebook](#). *Share it with your friends and social media connections.*

Download the interactive bulletin from the Friday eblast, Saturday reminder eblast and our homepage so you and your family can follow along (see pg. 3).

It's a Book Club!

Watch for more information on a new Missions Book Club. Our first three books will be:

1. "Tattoos on the Heart" by Father Gregory Boyle, a missionary who ministers to the gangs in Los Angeles. **Please read by May 1st.**
2. "In The Presence of My Enemies," by Gracia Burnham detailing her capture in the Philippines
3. "The Promise of a Pencil," an amazing story of how an ordinary person can effect extraordinary change

Make this a family adventure and include your middle and high school readers. We'll meet via Zoom to discuss. Books can be ordered from Amazon. Contact Linda Jagiela at missions@fpcmoorestown.org or (267) 275-7582 cell/text.



May 11 Blood Drive at FPC Moorestown

THANK YOU to everyone who came out for the April 14 blood drive—32 units were donated! There is a critical blood shortage and this help is vital. If you were not able to schedule an appointment, another drive is scheduled for **Monday, May 11** from 1-7 pm. *Appointments required.* Contact Debbie Heller at (856) 273-6838 or dheller374@comcast.net to schedule your appointment or visit 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!

National Day of Prayer Thursday, May 7

Letters of Well Wishing

In this unique time of “virtual church,” we may worship separately but we can pray for one another TOGETHER. 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? Please email Alison Mackey at amackey@fpcmoorestown.org with the recipient’s name, brief description of their situation, and their email. Alison will email them the Letter of Well Wishing e-signed with warmest wishes and support on behalf of our congregation.

How to Make Disciples

A follow-up session on Disciple Making will be held **Saturday, May 2 (8:30 am check-in, 9 am-noon)** and will be conducted by Dr. Ed Gross via Zoom for Elders, Deacons, Trustees, APNC, Program Staff and interested members and friends. The Zoom link is available on our Events page. Did you miss the first session on Feb. 29th? You can watch it on our [webpage \(live stream\)](#).

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 as we worship apart but together with online services:

1. www.fpcmoorestown.org
2. www.youtube.com
(Subscribe to our channel)
3. [Our Facebook page](#) (Like us)

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.

Friday Nighters

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

Prayer Vigil:

National Day of Prayer

As a church we will be praying for 12 hours on **Thursday, May 7**, the National Day of Prayer. Please sign up for a designated time to pray for our church, our families, our communities, or nation, and the world. In our homes or with others of your choosing, we will be praying from 6:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. on May 7. Times are in 30-minute slots and available times are listed on the [SignUpGenius sign up sheet](#). Please sign up for a time(s) that works for your schedule. For questions contact Melissa Corbin at (609) 247-4053 cell. See our FPC website for a [National Prayer](#) and [How to Pray Guide](#). Pray God’s Glory Across the Earth!



Spring Prayer Retreat

June 16-19, 2020

Holy Cross Monastery
West Park, New York

“Praying the Lord’s Prayer”

Learn more/register at

www.fpcmoorestown.org

Can We Help?

If you find you need help, please email the church at assistance@fpcmoorestown.org or leave a message on the church voice mail at (856) 235-1688. Our Deacons are ready to lend a hand with errands or needs and want to keep you safe. Be well, be strong, be home.



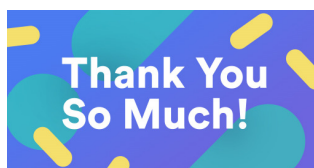
FAMILY MINISTRY



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

Thank You Collage

We would like to thank the children of Family Ministries for submitting drawings of Thank You pictures to encourage and support first responders. The submissions were awesome! These will be turned into a large collage to be sent out to first responders.



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.



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: "The Good Shepherd"

Dear Families,

I pray that you feel the loving arms of our Good Shepherd surrounding you and your family. As an additional devotion meditate on [Psalm 23](#) before doing this activity with your family this week. Remember that "The Lord is my Shepherd ..."
You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Love, Holly

Prepare: Print out or pull up on computer pictures of Buzz Lightyear, Olaf, Dory, Cookie Monster, Mary Poppins, and Jesus.
Read: John 10:3-4

Say: I am going to quote some popular phrases from some famous characters and then one real person. After I say the phrase, you have to do one thing to show me you know who said it. When you think you know the answer, I want you to "Baa" like a sheep. Are you ready?

(Go through each of the five phrases and allow kids the chance to "Baa" and then guess the answer. After they guess, show them the picture that goes with each phrase. Extra points if you use the character voices.)

[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?)