



We aspire to be beacons of God's love and truth ...

September 11, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of FPC Moorestown,

Once a group of maintenance workers at a state park had grown upset with the park management. Management was dissatisfied with how the workers were cleaning the camp sites after campers left for home. The maintenance workers were asked to pick up all the trash *and* rake the dirt at each campsite. Some of the workers felt that picking up the trash was plenty and raking the dirt was asking too much. A consultant who had been hired by the park was invited to resolve this small conflict. In a meeting, he asked the maintenance workers, "You mean management wants to be able to see rake marks on the ground once you're through?" "Yes," they said, "that's it." The consultant thought to himself, "You know, if I were a camper just arriving at a camp site I'd like to see rake marks. It would be reassuring, a clear sign that someone who really cared had been there."

I thought of this story recently as we prepared to welcome you back to gathered worship a few Sundays ago. By 8:00 a.m., many helpers were on hand to assist people with the check-in procedures and finding a place to sit to worship God. On early Sunday mornings, I've observed a lot of care being expressed without anyone saying a word.

I hope you can join us for this Sunday's **Fall Kickoff**, September 13th. We'll have ONE service at 9:30 a.m. on the front yard or the "Point" of our property. Please bring your own chairs and wear masks. We will live stream this worship service if you're unable to attend or prefer to worship with us at home. Afterwards, you're invited to attend our **Ministry Fair** that will be in the courtyard between the Miller Commons Lobby and the sanctuary. Here, you're encouraged to consider four important words for FPC Moorestown members: *Worship, Connect, Devote, and Serve*. This peculiar and demanding moment in our history forces us to lean into these four concepts as we never have before.

Worship

Look for an altar under construction at the Worship table. While preaching through the story of Abraham and Sarah this summer, I noticed that this couple lived in tents but built altars. Ben Patterson made an important point when he wrote, "*Abram's present was to be lived in transit. In the account of Abram's call in Genesis 12, there is a great symbolic contrast between altars and tents. As he travels, Abram builds altars to God, but he itches his tents. His dwelling was temporary; the only thing permanent in Abram's life was what he did as a testimony to the God whose promise he was*

waiting.” I’ll be there to greet you, along with our Choir Director Joel Krott and Christine Bass, a member of our Contemporary Worship Team.

Connect

This may be among the most important needs we all share in the COVID-19 pandemic. Physical distancing has created a dangerous social isolation. Kelly LePenske, our Director of Congregational Ministries, can help you find a small group to join. Holly Ascitutto, our Director of Children’s Ministries and Co-Director of Family Ministries, can help you learn about our educational and fellowship opportunities for children, youth, young adults, and adults.

Devote

Seeking the Lord God every day with prayer and time reading the Bible affords us the daily direction and renewal needed amid all the demands of our days. We’ll have free daily devotional materials for you. Members of our Prayer Team will be at this table to offer you more information. They’re also glad to pray with you and for you.

Serve

We’re getting ready for our second “Church Has Left the Building” event on Sunday, October 25. That day, we’ll set aside our normal Sunday morning schedule so that all of us, no matter our age, can go and serve the Lord and our neighbors. Director of Outreach Linda Jagiela will answer questions and provide you with information for this day of service.

I look forward to seeing you and worshipping God with you on this special Sunday! I thank God that we’re following Jesus together.

Yours in Christ,

Stuart Spencer

Pastor