



FPC MOORESTOWN READIES FOR “CHURCH HAS LEFT THE BUILDING”

Members and friends will engage in mission activities Sunday, October 25.

MOORESTOWN, NJ, October 14, 2020 — For the second year, First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown (FPC Moorestown) will NOT worship at the church on Sunday morning, October 25. Rather, members and friends will head out into the community to be hands and feet of the church for their “Church Has Left the Building” event.

Due to COVID-19, this year’s activities will look different from last year’s, yet the necessity, impact, and energizing experience remains the same. Regardless of age or skill level, all members and friends of the church will be performing projects assisting various ministries in the area.

“Our church is a missional church,” explains Mike Baker, chairman of the Missions Committee. “This event allows everyone in our church community to be involved in outreach activities. Last year, the event was an overwhelming success and this year we want to continue the momentum that is in place.”

In 2019, many of the activities were done on the church campus such as sandwich making and packing meal bags. This year, the event’s activities will all take place away from the church. Activities include painting homeless shelters; cleaning up homeless ministries; making bags of holdover food for those in need when food is not available; writing letters to shut-ins, veterans

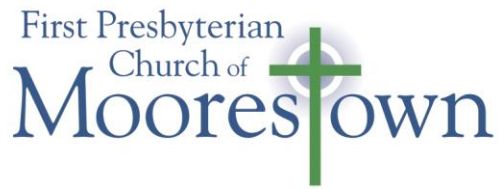
and active ministry; preparing home-cooked meals for foster parents; and packing shoe boxes for new college students.

Reverend Stuart Spencer introduced the concept to FPC Moorestown after he was called as senior pastor in spring 2018. "This is a great event for fellowship at our church as well as outreach. The program is developed so that there is something for everyone," explains Spencer. "When serving others, we worship God. This event puts faith in action."

Participants will perform projects Sunday morning and bring completed projects to a drop-off parade between 1 and 3 p.m. in the large church parking lot. Drop-offs will be zero contact and socially distanced around the space. Pastor Spencer and Kelly LePenske, director of Congregational Ministries, will welcome people and pray with them when requested.

Jennifer Allen participated in the 2019 event and has been looking forward to "Church Has Left the Building" all year long. Last year she and her family packed meal bags for Rise Against Hunger and wrote letters to active military. This year they have signed up to make holdover bags for the homeless and again write letters for veterans and active service people. "I think this is a terrific way for our family to actually work together, complete a task, and provide assistance to people in need. Especially this year, during COVID-19, when we haven't been able to get out much and serve others, we want to do our best to make a difference to people who can use some help right now."

More than 350 church members and friends participated in the 2019 event and the church anticipates that the same number or more will be involved this year. "Our congregants are eager to break the boredom and isolation that COVID-19 has caused and do something meaningful," says Spencer. "This event allows us to volunteer together safely."



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

Mission is not a one-time event at FPC Moorestown. It is an ongoing focus that includes local and global service organization support, a mission-focused book club, volunteer opportunities, Carol's House that offers housing for furloughed missionaries, and the Missionwares store that features free-trade items from SERVV and Ten Thousand Villages. The "Church Has Left the Building" experience gives members the opportunity to try different activities and get out of their comfort zone. The goal is to offer people meaningful activities that may become a regular part of their lives. Working and helping others in both big and small ways is truly putting faith in action.

First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown, located at 101 Bridgeboro Road, has a long and storied history. Today, a growing, thriving congregation of approximately 1,100, it was officially organized in 1888. Under Reverend Spencer's leadership, the congregation has outlined and engaged "25 Ways of the Week," based on God's word to be the foundation for creating a culture "thick with love." These are not rules to be obeyed, rather ways to train, remind, and encourage one another to be the church. The church has been following all COVID-19 requirement during the pandemic and is slowly re-opening as allowed. All services and many meetings and activities are available online at fpcmoorestown.org.