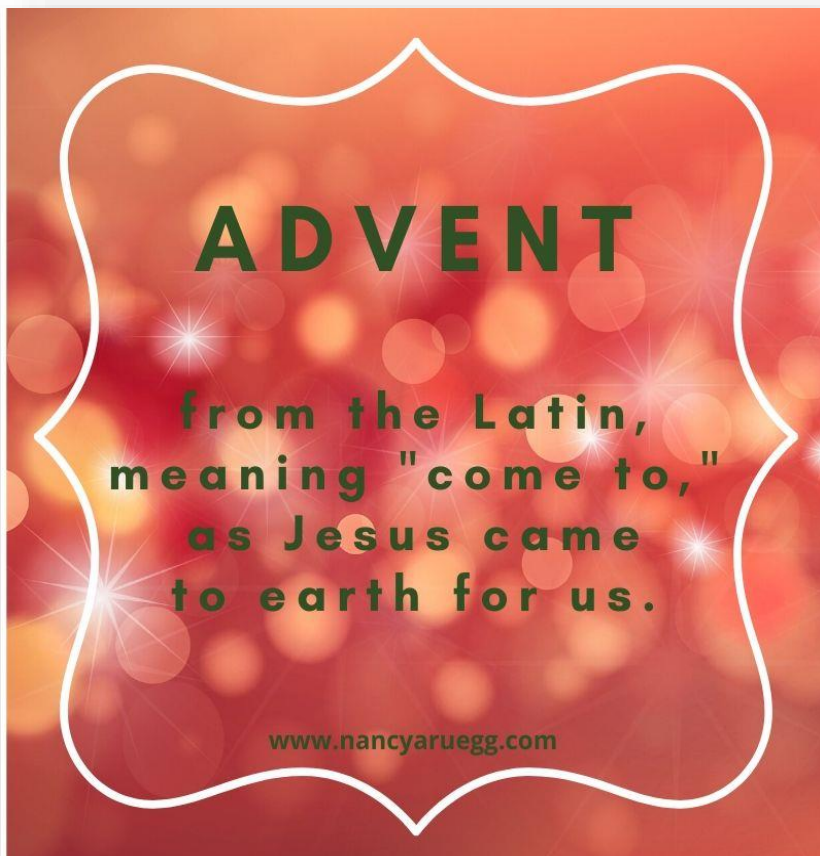


Advent Guide 2020



**A season of special opportunities
and experiences**

First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

fpcmoorestown.org

856.235.1688



See him in a manger laid, Jesus, Lord of Heaven and earth

The Meaning of Advent

"The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come."

~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming," which is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*. Scholars believe that during the 4th and 5th centuries in Spain and Gaul, Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the January feast of Epiphany, the celebration of God's incarnation represented by the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus, his baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist, and his first miracle at Cana. During this season of preparation, Christians would spend 40 days in penance, prayer, and fasting to prepare for this celebration.

Today, the season of Advent lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas. At that time, the new Christian year begins with the twelve-day celebration of Christmastide, which lasts from Christmas Eve until Epiphany on January 6. Advent begins on the Sunday that falls between November 27th and December 3rd each year.

Advent 2020 begins on Sunday, November 29, and ends on Thursday, December 24.



Advent Worship Schedule

Our pastoral staff presents the [Advent sermon series “Be Not Afraid,”](#) which begins November 29 and runs through December 20.



November 29

First Sunday in Advent

9:30 a.m. Blended Worship, Lord's Supper
Sunday School 10:45-11:30 a.m.

December 6

Second Sunday in Advent

9:30 a.m. Blended Worship
Sunday School 10:45-11:45 a.m.

December 13 (Manger Sunday)

Third Sunday in Advent

9:30 a.m. Blended Worship
Sunday School 10:45-11:45 a.m.

December 20

Fourth Sunday in Advent

9:30 a.m. Blended Worship, No Sunday School

December 27

9:30 a.m. Blended Worship, No Sunday School

Poinsettia Sales

Order Forms Available through Dec. 6

Each year during the Advent season the congregation has the opportunity to remember a loved one, honor an individual or recognize an occasion by purchasing a poinsettia to be placed at the front of the sanctuary on Sunday, December 20, 2020.



Order forms are available November 22, 29, December 6, 2020 and [NOW ONLINE](#)! Plants being taken home will be available after worship on December 20, 2020 or may be picked up in the Commons Lobby.

Advent Devotional Guide

Available November 29 and ONLINE

Beginning Sunday, November 29, the first Sunday in Advent, devotional booklets will be available to guide you through each day of Advent as we anticipate the good news of Christ's birth. Created by Kelly LePenske and our seminary intern Beth Douglass, we'll reflect on what it means to be people of hope, peace, joy and love. Each day includes scripture, questions, action steps, and artwork for ages 15+. You can pick one up in the Miller Commons lobby, sanctuary narthex or download the PDF online. Call the church office at 856.235.1688, or ask to have one mailed to you. **Visit the Advent Page at fpcmoorestown.org for your electronic copy to download as well as a copy of this 2020 Advent Guide.**

Interactive Family Advent Wreath

Wreaths are still available!

As we celebrate the Advent season, which begins on Sunday, November 29th, we hope families will join us in an [interactive wreath lighting](#). You and your family are invited to connect in a new way with our congregation by conducting your own personal wreath lighting at home while participating in our live stream worship service! Wreaths were available for pick up in November.

Each Sunday morning beginning November 29th, light one candle on your wreath with us through December 24. Light the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve.

Questions? Contact Holly Ascitutto at hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org.



Virtual Gingerbread House Challenge

Posts are due by November 29

Join us for a [Virtual Gingerbread House Challenge](#)! Did you pick up your gingerbread house? They were available November 15 and 22nd.

Use the house provided or pick one up at the store, and decorate it with whatever you'd like. Please take a picture of your individual creation and post it to our FPC Family Ministries Facebook Group on Sunday, November 29 by 4:00 p.m. to be entered into the judging! May the Gingerbread be in your favor!

FB Group Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/455452324633585>.

Questions? Contact Rachel Scarborough at rscarborough@fpcmoorestown.org.



The Chrismon Tree

One delight of the Advent season is seeing the Chrismon tree in place in the sanctuary. "Chrismon" combines two words - Christ and monogram. The ornaments are white and gold, white being the liturgical color for Christmas, and gold being the symbol for the glory and majesty of God. Chrismon designs are simple copies of symbols from early Christianity. Some familiar ones are the star, the cross, the fish, the Rose of Sharon, the crown and the Dove. The triangle symbolizes the Triune God, and some have significant Greek words. Last year, 2019, was the 50th year that the women of the church have decorated the tree. As we view the tree, we reaffirm the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Savior in its symbols.

Alternative Gift Market November 29-December 24

This year, our [Alternate Gift Market](#) has been expanded and will be available in person after services on Dec. 6, Dec. 13 and Dec. 20 as well as virtually through the church's website fpcmoorestown.org. Alternate Gifts allow donations to worthy causes in the name of the gift recipient. The Alternative Gift Market Catalog will be available at fpcmoorestown.org and on the events page starting Tuesday, December 1st. Gifts begin at \$5.00 and a broader range of 50 gifts is now available to assist our ministries. Visit the tables in the narthex and Commons Lobby on Dec. 6, Dec. 13, and Dec. 20th to purchase your alternative gifts. Online orders, cash or checks please (checks made payable to FPC Moorestown). Or pick up your gifts at a contact-free pickup. For information contact Linda Jagiela at cell/text 267.275.7582 or missions@fpcmoorestown.org. Fulfillment volunteers are needed to staff the Alternative Gift Market on Sundays in December. Please contact Linda Jagiela if you can help.

Christian Caring Center Gift Drive ONLINE

Available now; purchase by December 14

The Deacons have set up a website for Christian Caring Center to provide much needed items to local families. Please visit:

www.yougivegoods.com/fpcm2020 and follow the prompts to choose goods to be delivered directly to the Christian Caring Center facility and distributed to those in need. Most appreciated are clothing and warm weather needs (adults and children), toys and books. Please complete your online gift purchases by Monday, Dec. 14. For questions please contact Deacon Steve Connlain at 856.425.5043 cell/text or sconnlain@gmail.com.



Christmas Toy Drive

Yes, Annette Emerson is conducting the annual toy drive for the Presbytery Food Shelf in Camden! Can you help? Drop off new, unwrapped toys labeled "Emerson" at the Emerson HOME (329 Springhouse Lane, Moorestown). Or call Annette Emerson at 856-234-0717 for a pickup. Gifts are most needed for ages 3-13.



Longest Night Service

December 6 (7:00 p.m., live stream)

This service provides peace to those dealing with grief, illness, anxiety or depression this holiday season who may not feel the joy or celebration seen in others.

[The Longest Night](#) includes elements from the annual Service of Remembrance, including the Lord's Supper, special music and a time for prayer. The service will be live streamed so those who wish may participate from the safety of their homes. If you, or someone you know needs a quiet place in the rush of December, come to the Longest Night.

Princeton Seminary intern Beth Douglass will lead this service. The service will be live streamed.



(Un)simple Truth Webinar “Becoming Peacemakers”

December 7 (7:00 p.m. via Zoom)

Join us for an Advent-inspired conversation called [“Becoming Peacemakers”](#) with Amanda Mootz, grassroots organizing manager at World Vision. As someone whose calling straddles multiple areas, including ministry, politics and activism, Amanda will dive into scripture to help us better understand how God calls each one of us to be peacemakers in our own context. Don't miss this timely and healing conversation! For all ages 14+. Click the link below to join the webinar:



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84028665588?pwd=dU9iTdIEY2ZnN3JvN1lgMlpUY3dEZz09>

- Webinar ID: 840 2866 5588
- Passcode: 581806

Manger Sunday

Return unwrapped gifts December 13

The congregation is invited to please bring unwrapped gifts to services for our [Manger Sunday presentation](#). For those not attending worship, there will be a contact-less drop off from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Blessing Box. Gifts will be given to the clients of Oaks Integrated Care.

For gift suggestions, [see the complete list on our website](#) and Manger Sunday event page. Contact Linda at missions@fpcmoorestown.org.

West Jersey Chamber Music Society “At Home for the Holidays”

December 13 (7:30 p.m., live stream)



Members of the West Jersey Chamber Music Society’s Chamber Chorale come together for a socially-distant musical holiday celebration on Sunday, December 13 at 7:30 p.m. Join them from the comfort of your home for their second live streamed concert of the 2020-21 season. For free! Simply watch online at concert time. Register online at <https://wjcms.org/holiday/> in advance to receive a reminder and a copy of the PDF program at concert time.

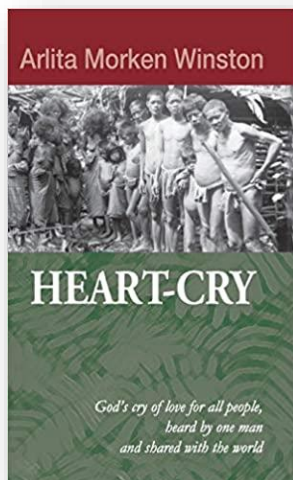
The singers of the West Jersey Chamber Chorale are working professionals associated with some of the region’s most accomplished ensembles. Host Ivan Woods guides audiences through the festive evening.

This free program will be broadcast online at www.wjcms.org and the church website www.fpcmoorestown.org.

Mission Book Club

December 14 (6:00 p.m. via Zoom)

[December Book Club:](#) Does God's heart cry out for cannibals? For that matter, does God's heart cry for suicide bombers or terrorists? Is the Christian message of God's love as valid today as it was in the past, or is it old and ineffective news? Author Arlita Winston lived in the jungles of Sumatra, the child of missionaries David and Helen Morken. Decades later, she looks back and tells how her parents, aunt and uncle braved wild panthers and pythons, head-hunters, hardship and even death to bring God's love to the native people there. To participate in the call: www.zoom.com.



- Meeting ID: 836 9588 8226
- Passcode: 9FqaKf
- Dial by your location
 - +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
 - +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
 - +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

2020 Giving Statements Available

Up-to-date copies of your current 2020 giving statement are always available by contacting the church office at 856.235.1688 or Norman Vandergrift at nvandergrift@fpcmoorestown.org.

Special Holiday Giving Opportunities

Year End Stock Donations

Please remember the church in your [year-end donations](#). Process gifts expediently by contacting your broker or Norman Vandergrift at 856-235-1688, Ext. 112.

Holiday Offering Mailing

This year we will be mailing home to our church households an opportunity to give for the holidays and for end-of-year support to our ministry. Included will be:

- **Christmas Green Offering**— directly aids our FPC Moorestown church program areas (also in boxed sets).
- **Christmas Joy Offering**— our denominational gift to assist racial-ethnic schools and retired church workers who need financial assistance.

General Budget Help

A gift above your pledged giving that keeps our ministry going forward would be most appreciated. Every love gift helps us close the gap, critical in this COVID year. Donate online at www.fpcmoorestown.org.



Christmas Eve Worship Schedule (TBD)

Thursday, December 24

At this printing, plans are being developed for candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Services. We will be following health and safety protocols in response to current conditions for COVID-19. Services may be offered live streamed, pre-recorded, in-person or outdoors. Visit our website at fpcmoorestown.org and Facebook page for updates.





For
unto us

a Child is Born

and his name

Shall be called

Wonderful Counsellor

THE MIGHTY GOD

The everlasting father

THE PRINCE OF PEACE

ISAIAH 9:6

