

First Presbyterian Church
101 Bridgeboro Road
Moorestown, NJ 08057
fpcmoorestown.org
856.235.1688

Rev. Stuart Spencer
Pastor / Head of Staff
sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org

Kelly LePenske
Director of
Congregational Ministries
klepenske@fpcmoorestown.org

**Worship. Connect.
Serve. Devote.**

JOIN US from the safety of your home or safely gathered at church for worship Sunday morning at **9:30 a.m.** This Blended Worship streams live from the sanctuary and participants in attendance observe strict protocols per state regulations. Log on from any device to www.fpcmoorestown.org or [YouTube](#) or [Facebook](#). The service is also posted later in the week to our website.

9:30 a.m. Worship

"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

FPC 
Moorestown

First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

December 13-20, 2020

Way of the Week I (December 13-20, 2020)



1. BE THIRD. God is first, others are second, and you're third. Don't just think about your own interests, be interested in others. Don't think less of yourself, just think of yourself less and others more.

- ♦ *And all of you, dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." (1 Peter 5: 5)*
- ♦ *Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. (Philippians 2: 4)*
- ♦ *And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. (John 13: 14, 15)*

Ideas for Action: Ask God, "Whom can I serve today?" Look for an opportunity to be last ... in line, the last to speak, or last to be served.

The Ways

This week we begin our fifth round of the Ways; culture statements we've identified and consider as touch points each week. Look for how this round intertwines each way with elements of the worship service and sermon, showing concrete examples of how these principles are fundamental to our spiritual journey.

West Jersey Chamber: At Home for the Holidays

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. This is the second live streamed concert of the 2020–21 season. Watch from the comfort of your home, for free! Host Ivan Woods guides audiences through the festive evening. **This program will air via live stream on two websites: www.wjcms.org and www.fpcmoorestown.org.** Complete your registration in advance to receive a reminder and a copy of the PDF program.

Prayer Team Devotional

Members of our Prayer Team are dropping by some of our members who may be feeling disconnected, and sharing with them a collection of Advent readings from John Piper, "Good News of Great Joy." [Download your copy here](#) too and from our online Events page.

Christmas Eve Schedule

At a special meeting Dec. 5, Session approved three worship services for Christmas Eve. Given ongoing challenges and rapid changes of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Session approved the following:

- ◆ **3:00 p.m.:** Outdoor Service in the courtyard (between the sanctuary and the Commons, approx. 20 minutes in length)
- ◆ **4:00 p.m.:** Live Stream Communion Service in the sanctuary (no in-person attendance)
- ◆ **7:00 p.m.:** Outdoor Service in the courtyard, approx. 20 min.

Visit our website, Friday eblast, online events page for details.



Christian Caring Center Gift Drive—ONLINE

THANK YOU! On behalf of the Deacons, I want to thank everyone for your collective last-minute effort for the Christian Caring Center Online Gift Drive. From SATURDAY, Dec. 12 to midnight SUNDAY, Dec. 13, we, as a church, added over 100 goods to the drive, which surpassed our goal of 150, with the final total being 174 goods! We could not have done this without your quick response and help. Hallelujah! What a blessing you all are! This online drive replaced the Angel Tree this year.

- Steve Connlain, Deacon Coordinator

Sunday Worship

At this time, Session has approved to continue with one **9:30 a.m.** Blended Worship service, presented by live stream. Capacity in the sanctuary is 75 attendees, worship is 45 minutes, and seating is first come first served. Please enter through the glass doors. Sanctuary doors open at 9:15 a.m. Please physically distance, and download the [Church Center App](#) to your smart phone to facilitate a contact-free check-in. [Visit our website for more information.](#)



Poinsettia Orders

If you ordered holiday poinsettias (orders closed Dec. 6), they will be available to take home after worship on **Sunday, December 20**. Thank you to Carol Morgan, Stacy Shaffer and Steve Cashmer for their help arranging the display.

Series: The (Un)simple Truth

The series is on hiatus for January, and will return Monday, February 1, 2021. Watch for the upcoming webinar link.

DID YOU MISS IT? If you did not get a chance to view the December 7 episode with Amanda Mootz from World Vision when it aired, you still can. Log on to our website fpcmoorestown.org and look for the (Un)simple Truth page.

Missions Zoom Book Club **Monday, Dec. 14 (6 pm)**

"Heart-Cry" by our own Arlita Winston is the focus of this month's Missions Book Club, Monday, Dec. 14 via Zoom. The author will be joining the meeting as well! Log on to zoom.com to participate:

- **Meeting ID: 836 9588 8226**
- **Passcode: 9FqaKf**

NEW: January through March book selections are available on our website and events pages.

Alternative Gift Market

The Alternative Gift Market catalog is available and gifts may be purchased at church **Dec. 13 and Dec. 20th** or anytime. Look for tables in the narthex and Commons Lobby. Purchase your gifts and pick up with a contact-free drive-up too. If you need help contact Linda Jagiela at misions@fpcmoorestown.org. Volunteers are needed to help with fulfillment; contact Linda if you can help (cell 267-275-7582).

Christmas Toy Drive

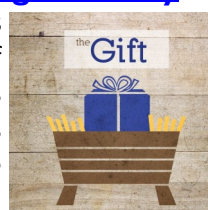
Annette Emerson is conducting the annual toy drive for the Presbytery Food Shelf in Camden. Drop off new, **unwrapped** toys at the Emerson home (329 Springhouse Lane, Moorestown) or call Annette at 856-234-0717 for a pickup. Gifts are most needed for ages 3-13.

Join the Audio Visual Team

We are looking for friends high school or older to learn our new multi-camera system and audio for the Sunday morning live stream. We will train. Contact Martin Bass at mbass@fpcmoorestown.org or Steve Drzaszcz at steve@gotsteve.com.

TODAY: Manger Sunday

Today on this Third Sunday of Advent, we bless the Manger Gifts presented. These unwrapped gifts, given lovingly, will be given to support clients at Oaks Integrated Care during the holidays. **Visit our website for suggested gift items.** Look for the manger **OUTSIDE** the sanctuary entrance this year! Drive up drop off will also be available until 11:30 a.m. on Sunday.



Advent Devotional

Advent devotional booklets are available to guide you through this season as we 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+. Pick one up in the Miller Commons lobby, sanctuary narthex or [download the PDF](#) online at fpcmoorestown.org. Call the church office at 856.235.1688 if you'd like one mailed to you.

2020 Advent Guide

Throughout the four-week Season of Advent there are special, meaningful activities for all ages, some familiar and some new. Pick up a copy of our *2020 Advent Activity Guide* at church or [download the PDF](#) from our website and eblast.

Special Holiday Giving Opportunities

For these offerings, you may mail a check, [give online](#), use the special envelopes in boxed sets or leave in the offering box. Please note in memo line.

- ♦ **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.
- ♦ **Christmas Green Offering**— this offering directly assists our church's program areas.
- ♦ **Christmas Joy Offering (Dec. 13)**— this gift to our denomination assists racial-ethnic schools and retired church workers who need financial assistance.
- ♦ **General Budget Help**— this gift above your pledged giving keeps our ministry going forward. Every gift helps us close our current financial gap.



2021 Pulpit Flowers

Reserve Sunday flower donations for 2021 to honor loved ones and special dates in your life. Vases are \$40 each and 2 vases are available each Sunday. To reserve your date (s), contact Rumi Sinunu at 856-266-4047 or rts319@gmail.com.



FAMILY MINISTRY

Sunday School 10:45-11:45 a.m. (Fellowship Hall, K-6th grade)

Kingdom Kids

As we determine safest practices for the new year, we will be in communication about future Kingdom Kids meetings and 2021 dates. If you are not on the email list for Kingdom Kids and would like to be please send an email to rscarborough@fpcmoorestown.org.

Crossing Zone

Crossing Zone's last meeting of the year will be **Dec. 16th** before breaking for the holidays Dec. 23rd - Jan. 20th, resuming Jan. 27th. Starting Jan. 27th, Crossing Zone will return to its previous format of a full hour 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Youth Small Groups

*Thank you to this **amazing** team leading our youth!*

- ♦ **Middle School Girls:** Colleen Young
- ♦ **Middle School Guys:** Dave Fauvell
- ♦ **Freshman/Sophomore Girls:** Sami Stewart, Carlie Blessing, Chloe Kenney, Gwen Wilkie
- ♦ **Junior Girls:** Lindsay Hinkson and Jess Winston
- ♦ **Senior Girls:** Corinne Callahan
- ♦ **Freshman/Sophomore Guys:** Nate Hinkson
- ♦ **Junior Guys:** Carl Krott and Durell Jenkins
- ♦ **Senior Guys:** Dave Fauvell

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

"The angel reassured them. 'Don't be afraid!' he said. 'I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!'"
- Luke 2: 10-11

For Families and Children:
Holly Asciutto
856-235-1688, x116
hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org

For Families and Youth:
Dave Fauvell
609-980-7885 (cell/text)
dfauvell52@gmail.com

Virtual Gingerbread House Challenge

WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT! * Throws Confetti *

Big thank you to everyone that participated in our Gingerbread House Challenge! Here are the winners:

Pam Engle, Avery Engle and Miles Engle
The Houses Most Likely to be Eaten

Jennifer Allen, Wes Allen, Vivian Allen and Jacob Allen
The House that is Most Environmentally Conscious

Kristen Perkowski, Brian Perkowski, Kyle Perkowski and Alex Perkowski
The House that Most Accurately Depicted 2020

Alivia Nawrocki and Aubrey Devonshire
The House that was Most Creatively Themed

Prizes are being mailed! We hope you had as much fun making your houses as we did seeing them!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!