First Presbyterian Church 101 Bridgeboro Road Moorestown, NJ 08057 <u>fpcmoorestown.org</u> 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.** The service 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 am 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



First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

#### January 3-10, 2021

Way of the Week 4 (January 3-10, 2021)



**4. ALWAYS ENCOURAGE AND CELEBRATE.** Show gratitude and appreciation by regularly acknowledging the good works you see everywhere.<sup>a</sup> Look for signs of spiritual growth and maturity among our members and staff. When you see it, point it out and rejoice.<sup>b</sup> Pass on good reports that you hear about others.

- ⇒ <sup>a</sup>We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly. As we pray to our God and Father about you, we think of your faithful work, your loving deeds, and the enduring hope you have because of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 1: 3, 4)
- ⇒ <sup>b</sup> When the church at Jerusalem heard what had happened, they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw this evidence of God's blessing, he was filled with joy, and he encouraged the believers to stay true to the Lord. (Acts 11: 22, 23)



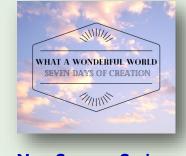
The staff of First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown wishes you a very Happy New Year

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# Registration Opens for Step by Step Preschool

Now is the time to register for the 2021-2022 school year at Step by Step Christian Preschool, a ministry of FPC Moorestown. Early registration for church members and current enrollees begins the week of January 11. Open registration for all others will begin on January 27. Applications can be found online at www.fpcmoorestown.org/

registration beginning January 8<sup>th</sup>. Classes begin in September 2021 and are available for 2 ½ year olds (age 2 by April 1), 3-year olds (age 3 by Sept 30) and Pre-K students (age 4 by Sept. 30). Step by Step offers flexible options for morning or afternoon sessions for 2, 3, 4 or 5 days a week, and is open to members of the church and surrounding communities. Visit the preschool's web site for more information at https:// www.fpcmoorestown.org/ growth/step-by-step-preschool/ or contact director Amy Delgado at 856.235.1688, x132.



### **New Sermon Series**

From January 3-February 14, Rev. Spencer preaches a series of sermons called, "What a Wonderful World" based on the seven days of creation. These sermons will provide a reflection on the everpresent wonder and mystery of all that God created. "God has created the world of space and time to be the sphere of God's dealings with humankind. In its beauty and vastness, sublimity and awfulness, order and disorder, the world reflects to the eye of faith the majesty and mystery of its Creator." (Confession of 1967). Following a difficult and demanding year, we begin 2021 rejoicing and finding renewal in the gifts of creation.

Moments from an Early Christmas Eve





Glorious! Nearly 200 gathered on December 23, 2020 for two early Christmas Eve services and our firstever outdoor Christmas Eve services. It was a safe, spectacular way to celebrate our Savior's birth.

#### **Annual Meeting / Reports**

The Annual Meeting of the congregation will be held **Sunday, February 7, 2021** via Zoom webinar. Committee chairs are asked to please provide a report summarizing events of 2019-2020 to Jan Martin by **Friday, January 15**. Please email reports to <u>imartin@fpcmoorestown.org</u>. Copies of the 2020 Annual Report will be available Jan. 31, 2021 at church and online through our eblast, website and online Events page.

#### Thursday Evening Prayer Service

See our Events page and website for updates to the Thursday service. Submit prayer requests by 9:00 am Wednesday to pastoral staff or church office.

#### **Year-End Giving Reminders**

THANK YOU to all who have generously responded by providing year -end or Christmas gifts to the church. Every gift helps us close our current financial gap. The financial office reminds you that:

- ⇒ Donations for Christmas Green and Budget Help may be accepted by the church through 5:00 pm Tuesday, January 5
- $\Rightarrow$  Checks must be dated December 31, 2020
- ⇒ You may also hand deliver to the church office through January 5 with a December 31 check date

# Winter Gathering by PW: Monday, January 25

All women of the church and their guests are invited to the Presbyterian Women's Winter Gathering on **Monday, January 25** via Zoom.

This evening of fellowship, information, and inspiration will feature Linda Jagiela, FPC administrator of outreach, at **7:00 pm.** Topic: *The Changing Face of* 



*Missions in the World.* Watch the online events page, eblast and website for Zoom link information.

As we have done in the past, we will be collecting cotton socks for clients of the Christian Caring Center. Look for a box for socks outside the Commons Lobby throughout January. All are welcome to the event.

#### **Christmas Toy Drive**

Annette Emerson wishes to thank everyone who generously donated toys to the Presbytery Food Shelf in Camden. She was overwhelmed at your generosity!

# Missions Book Club January 11, 2021 (Zoom)

Our January Book Club will be reading Eleanor Turnbull's *Those Who Passed By*. This veteran mis-

sionary traces the story of Haiti's development by what happens along the Kenscoff Road and those who travel its bumps and curves. Throughout her nearly 70 years

working in development and rural medical care, Eleanor met countless men and women who were just "passing by." These are their stories. Find the Zoom link on our <u>Events page</u> and website.

#### The (Un)simple Truth

The adult education webinar series is on hiatus for January and returns Monday, February 1, 2021. If you missed any of the first three episodes, you can view them on our website <u>fpcmoorestown.org</u> and the <u>(Un)simple Truth page.</u>

#### **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.



#### You Made a Difference

THANK YOU to our volunteers and deacons who helped coordinate and deliver Christmas poinsettias to our members who are less mobile. Many recipients have

let us know how touched they were that their church remembered them in this way.



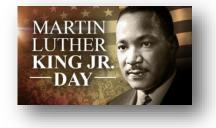
Thank you to Sandy Batezel, Christine Catanella, Mary Christiansen, Jean Donahue, Mike Hock, Karen Hynoski, Caroline Joyce, Pat Joyner, Jan Martin, Peggy Morris, Diane Samuel, Vicki Terry, Bobbi Voglesong, Ken Wehn and Carole Wehn.

#### Sunday Worship

Our 9:30 a.m. Sunday service is held in the sanctuary and also airs via live stream. Capacity is 75 people and 45 minutes with generously spaced seating. Please enter through the glass doors. Sanctuary doors open at 9:15 a.m. Please physically distance, wear a mask and download the <u>Church Center</u> <u>App</u> to your smart phone to facilitate a contact-free check-in. <u>Visit</u> our website for more information.

#### Join the Audio Visual Team

We are looking for folks high school or older to learn our new multicamera system and audio for the Sunday morning live stream worship. Contact either Martin Bass at <u>mbass@fpcmoorestown.org</u> or Steve Drzaszcz at <u>ste-</u> ve@gotsteve.com. We will train.





# SUNDAY SCHOOL is off January 3. We will see you January 10!





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

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

- Genesis I: I

For Families and Children: Holly Asciutto 856-235-1688, ×116 hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org

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

# Kingdom Kids and Crossing Zone Winter Break

#### **Crossing Zone**

Crossing Zone (grades 4-6th) is on winter break, returning **Wednesday, January 27, 2021**. In January, Crossing Zone returns to its previous format of a full hour 6:30-7:30 p.m.

# **Kingdom Kids**

As we determine safest practices for the new year, we will be in communication about future Kingdom Kids (K-3rd) 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 Rachel Scarborough at <u>rscarborough@fpcmoorestown.org</u>.

# Questions

For questions regarding these groups, contact Holly Asciutto at 609.273.7465 (cell) or <u>hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org</u>.



A new year is like a blank book. The pen is your hands. it is your chance to write a beautiful story for yourself. Wishing you a great Happy and Prosperous New Year!