

**First Presbyterian Church**  
101 Bridgeboro Road  
Moorestown, NJ 08057  
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856.235.1688

**Rev. Stuart Spencer**  
Pastor / Head of Staff  
[sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org)

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[klepenske@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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**

**January 24-31, 2021**

## Way of the Week 7 (January 24-31, 2021)



**7. CELEBRATE OUR UNITY, SAVOR OUR DIVERSITY.** Thank God that, like parts of the human body, we're not all the same. Be open to learn from others, regardless of their age, background, experience, or tenure with our church.<sup>a</sup> We make better decisions and grow as people when we consider multiple perspectives.<sup>b</sup> Listen with curiosity to others and consider how to use their ideas.<sup>c</sup>

- ◆ <sup>a</sup>*Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. (Ephesians 4: 3 – 4)*
- ◆ <sup>b</sup>*How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in harmony! (Psalm 133: 4)*
- ◆ <sup>c</sup>*Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. (Romans 12: 3 – 5)*

**Ideas for Action:** Seek out someone from a different background, culture or race and meet three or four times to get to know their lives and stories. Pray with them for racial and social healing.

Watch your mail in the coming weeks for a letter from Rev. Spencer and Stewardship chair Nancy Chumney about our per capita giving as a Connectional Church.

### Winter Gathering by PW: **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 director of outreach, at **7:00 pm**. Topic: *The Changing Face of Mission in the World*. Watch the online events page, eblast and website for Zoom link information.

We are again collecting **cotton socks** for clients of the Christian Caring Center. Place your donations in the box in the Commons Lobby throughout January. All are welcome to the event.



### **Registration Open for Step by Step Preschool**

Registration is underway for the 2021-2022 school year at Step by Step Christian Preschool. **Early registration for church families and current enrollees began Jan. 11.** Open registration for all others begins on Jan. 27. Applications can be found online at [www.fpcmoorestown.org/registration](http://www.fpcmoorestown.org/registration). 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 area.

Visit the preschool's web site for more information at [www.fpcmoorestown.org/step-by-step-preschool](http://www.fpcmoorestown.org/step-by-step-preschool) or contact director [Amy Delgado](mailto:amy@fpcmoorestown.org) at 856.235.1688, x132.

### **Spring Inquirer's Class**

The Membership Committee will be holding a Spring Inquirer's Class virtually in February or March for those interested in learning more about First Presbyterian Church and possibly joining the congregation. The two-part series will be held on a Wednesday (7:00-8:30 pm) and Saturday (9:00 am-1:30 pm); exact dates are to be set.

During this class you'll learn about what we believe as a church, some of the ministries we have here, and discuss basic Christian beliefs. It is a great starting point to explore what we do here at FPC Moorestown and if this church might be the right church for you!

To SIGN UP contact Alison at 856-235-1688, Ext. 113 or [amackey@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:amackey@fpcmoorestown.org) or **register** on the online Events page.



### Annual Meeting Webinar

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, Feb. 7, 2021 at 11:00 am via Zoom webinar. The purpose of the meeting is to share the Annual Report, receive the 2021 church budget, and approve the 2021 pastor's terms of call. Watch our website, eblast and Events page for the webinar link. The Annual Report will be available Sunday, January 31.

### **January 31st is Blanket Sunday**

Blanket Sunday, a special offering sponsored by our Deacons and [Church World Service](http://www.churchworldservice.org), is coming Sunday, January 31. Your contributions enable Church World Service to help families around the world stay warm, recover from disasters and displacement, while helping to rebuild viable, sustainable lives and communities. [Visit our Events page to watch a short video ...](#)

To donate, simply select the Blanket Sunday drop down from our secure online giving menu at [www.fpcmoorestown.org](http://www.fpcmoorestown.org), or you may mail checks made out to First Presbyterian Church with Blanket Sunday noted in the memo line.



### Annual Giving Statements

Annual giving statements for 2020 will be mailed this week to member households. **Please compare with your records.** Thank you for your generous giving to your church in this tumultuous year. For questions or discrepancies regarding your giving, please contact [Norm Vandergrift](mailto:Norm.Vandergrift@fpcmoorestown.org) at (856) 235-1688, Ext. 112.

### 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](mailto:rts319@gmail.com).



### Ash Wednesday Worship; Imposition of Ashes to Go

The Journey of Lent begins on Wednesday, Feb. 17 with **Ash Wednesday Worship** at 7:00 pm. Worship will be in the sanctuary by LIVE STREAM ONLY.

Earlier that day, we will be holding two special **drive-through Ashes to Go** at 12 noon and 5:00 pm. Participants will drive safely into the main parking lot and be greeted by Stuart or Kelly for prayer and to receive the imposition of ashes or anointing oil, either on the forehead or the back of the hand. Please wear masks.

### Spotlight on 2020

Visit our website and eblasts to view a fantastic video by Martin & Chris Bass, Barbara Duffy and Jan Martin, celebrating FPC Moorestown's remarkable firsts and pivots as we coped with the global COVID-19 pandemic. And always, with God at the helm ...

### Fasting on Thursdays

Join Pastor Stuart Spencer on Thursdays for a day of full or partial fasting. However or whenever you fast on Thursdays. If you are unable to fast for medical reasons, plan to make Thursday a special day of prayer for yourself, our church and our nation, and be sure to participate in our Evening Prayer Service at 7:00 pm. If there are medical or health reasons that prohibit you from fasting, please do not fast. If you're uncertain, consult your doctor before fasting. Visit our [Events page](#) and website for more information.

### Phone Live Streaming

Want to *listen* to the church service on your phone instead of watching the live stream? Opt in by calling our toll-free number **844-723-1340** at 9:25 am and press 1 to be joined to our Sunday Worship service. You can also contact Alison Mackey (Ext. 113) in the church office to be added to an automatic call list.

### The (Un)simple Truth

The adult education webinar returns in February but will be rescheduled from the February 1 date. This will conclude the series. You can view all episodes on our website [fpcmoorestown.org](http://fpcmoorestown.org) and the [\(Un\)simple Truth page](#).

### Lenten Book Study

For Lent 2021, we'll be reading [The Good and Beautiful Community](#) by James Bryan Smith, a professor and Methodist pastor who has a heart for the church and spiritual formation. The guiding questions Smith asks are: 1) How do we become more authentic Christ-followers, and 2) How do we become a beloved and vital community for others, no matter our differences? *Watch for information on signing up for small groups.*

### Sunday, February 21 First Sunday of Lent

### A Thank You

*Thank you FPCM for the beautiful poinsettia and to Carole Wehn for delivering it! A big thank you, also, to many of you for all of the cards, emails, and phone calls. I feel so loved and supported by a wonderful church family as I prepare for surgery, recovery, and treatments. And a special thank you for all the prayers offered for me and for my husband, Mark. I sense Jesus walking with me through these days, so all those prayers are truly appreciated. Thank you and thanks be to God!*

*In Jesus' hands,  
Mary Christensen*



Newly refurnished hardwood floors in the Lounge are sparkling





**Come hang out with us at Sunday School (10:45-11:45 a.m.)**



Find relationships in a youth small group

**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 1:1

For Families and Children:  
**Holly Ascitutto**  
856-235-1688, x116  
[hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org)

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

### **Kingdom Kids and Crossing Zone Return**

- ◆ **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 pm.
- ◆ **Kingdom Kids** will resume meeting every Wednesday beginning **February 3, 2021** from 4:45-5:45 pm in Fellowship Hall, with all COVID protocols in place.

For questions regarding these groups, contact Holly Ascitutto at 609.273.7465 (cell) or [hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org).

### ⇒ **Lent-In-a-Bag Take Home Activity: Praying with Jesus**

The 40 days of Lent has historically been a time of fasting, prayer, and study for those wishing to grow closer to God. It can be a time for personal and collective reflection and transformation. We look honestly at ourselves and are reminded of who we belong to while aligning with Christ's sacrifice. In scripture, the number 40 is significant as the Israelites spent forty years in the wilderness preparing for the promised land, and Jesus went into the wilderness for forty days to prepare for his ministry. These two stories show us that God can use Lent to help us make new choices and begin a new direction for our hearts and lives.

**Lent-in-a-Bag** is a take-home activity we are offering beginning Ash Wednesday February 17 to each FPC Moorestown family. [Read more on our online events page, eblast, or website.](#) The First Sunday in Lent is February 21.