

**First Presbyterian Church**  
101 Bridgeboro Road  
Moorestown, NJ 08057  
[fpcmoorestown.org](http://fpcmoorestown.org)  
856.235.1688

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

**Kelly LePenske**  
Director of  
Congregational Ministries  
[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**

**February 14-21, 2021**

## Way of the Week 10 (February 14-21, 2021)



**10. JOIN HANDS.** Work as a team. Collaborate with each other, our professional staff, our lay leaders, and our congregants to find the best solutions. Collaboration lightens the load, generates better ideas than individuals working alone, and unleashes the gifts God has given us all.

*Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. (Ecclesiastes 4: 9)*

*Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ. If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important. (Galatians 6: 2, 3)*

**Ideas for Action:** Is there some task you're doing at church that you could invite someone to share with you? Think of someone from our church who can help you sort out a challenge or problem you're facing.

**The Deacons will host a non-contact food drive** on Ash Wednesday in conjunction with Ashes on the Go. Please consider bringing food items when you come for ashes or even if you are not receiving ashes. Drop off between 12-1 pm and 5-6 pm on February 17th. All donations will go to the Live Civilly/Moorestown Ministerium food pantry. Food may be dropped off daily at the church by the Commons glass doors.

**SENIORS: do you need help registering for the COVID vaccine?**

Chris Catanella and Ginny Weber are available to help you. [See our events page!](#)

### Guest Preacher Luke Maxted February 14

We welcome guest preacher Luke Maxted to our worship service on **Sunday, Feb. 14.**

Luke studied at London School of Theology where he earned a degree in Theology and completed a research Masters on God as Father in Matthew's Gospel. Since graduating he has worked as a pastor in a Baptist church in London and an Anglican church in the suburbs of London where he specialized in ministry with children and families. Luke is married to Kelly and they have two sons, Reuben (8) and Judah (5). He is a fellow at UrbanPromise International with Kelly and they plan to launch the UK's first Urban-Promise when they return home.



### Easter Flower Orders Available March 7, 14, 21

### Spring Inquirer's Class held March 3rd, 6th

The Membership Committee will be holding a Spring Inquirer's Class virtually in March for those interested in learning more about First Presbyterian Church and possibly joining the congregation. The Zoom series will be held online on the following dates:

- ◆ Wed. March 3 (7:00-8:30 pm)
- ◆ Sat. March 6 (8:30-10:30 am)
- ◆ Sun. March 7 (11-12:30 pm with Session)

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!

Register on the [online Events page](#) or contact Alison at 856-235-1688, Ext. 113.

### How Can You Serve Your Church?

The Nominations Committee is currently seeking individuals to staff the three Boards of the church: Elders, Deacons and Trustees. Please pray about where God may be calling you. [Fill out an online nominations form](#) on our online events page to nominate yourself or others. Questions? Contact Gil Warren at [gkwarren@verizon.net](mailto:gkwarren@verizon.net).



### First Sunday of Lent Sunday, February 21 (Lord's Supper)

*A special shout out to Stuart Spencer, Harris A. Ransom, Harris E. Ransom and Ken Wehn for slogging through the snowstorm to make it to church last Sunday so we could broadcast worship!*

### February Book Club: "Dragon Ride"

Join us on **Monday, February 22nd** at 6:00 p.m. for the Missions Book Club via Zoom.

*Dragon Ride: True Stories of Adventure, Miracles, and Evangelism from China* by Grace Jacob (Author), Dr. John Townsend (Foreword). In *Dragon Ride*, the beauty of the Lord is seen through the eyes of Buddhists, atheists, idol worshippers, Muslims, and an animist as they encounter Jesus. *Dragon Ride* records the actual conversations Grace had with her friends, and many of them embraced Christ as the answer to their deepest longings.

Log on to: [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com)  
Meeting ID: 858 1209 6236  
Passcode: 040982

### Per Capita Giving Underway

Recently information was mailed to member households regarding our annual Per Capita giving. As Presbyterians, we are a *connectional church*. This assessment is a "per member" contribution of **\$38.75 per member** above your pledge, that each church pays annually to the larger church and includes funding for the General Assembly, Synod and West Jersey Presbytery.

Congregation members are asked to help provide the \$38.75 for themselves and/or their member children (if able). Or you may [submit an "opt out" request](#) if you do NOT wish to pay. You must alert the church office. Your response and support is most appreciated and will assist the church in paying this assessment. -- Stewardship Committee

## Ash Wednesday: Ashes on the Go; Food Drive; Live Stream Worship

The Journey of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday February 17th when we will hold two drive-through **Ashes on the Go** events at 12 noon and 5:00 pm. Participants will drive into the main parking lot and be safely greeted for prayer and, if desired, to receive the imposition of ashes. Please wear masks. The Deacons will be holding a contact-free **Food Drive** (see page 1). That night we will gather virtually for **Ash Wednesday Worship** at 7:00 pm. Seminary intern Beth Douglass will preach the Word and home communion will be served. There will be no in-person participation.

## Palm Sunday Offering: One Great Hour of Sharing

Families: Fish banks will be available in the Lent-in-a-Bags. [Gifts may be made online](#) using the One Great Hour of Sharing drop down. Palm Sunday is March 28th.

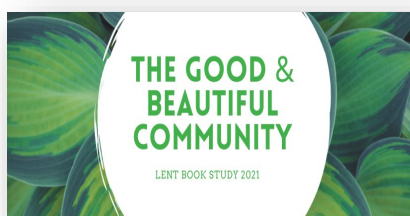
## ARC Blood Drive

Here is the church, here is the steeple, open the doors and where are the people? At the American Red Cross Blood Drive on **Thursday, March 4th** from 1-7 p.m. in Miller Commons! Appointments required. This is a simple, free, COVID-safe way to make a meaningful difference. So please sign up for this needed blood drive and our upcoming drive on Friday, May 14th. Donate a gift of life! For questions, contact Deborah Heller at (856) 273-6838 or [dheller374@comcast.net](mailto:dheller374@comcast.net). To schedule an appointment visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

## Lenten Book Study

We invite all current small groups to read [The Good and Beautiful Community](#) during our six-week church-wide study, beginning the first week of Lent. Author James Bryan Smith, a professor and Methodist pastor, has a heart for the church and spiritual formation and asks the questions: 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? [Sign ups](#) are **OPEN**; visit our [online Events page](#) or [website](#).

Book groups start on **Sunday, Feb. 21st** and run through Easter. Groups may meet online or in person, observing COVID-19 protocols. Order books through Amazon, CBD or purchase a limited number through the church office for \$12. Contact [Alison Mackey](#) at 856.235.1688, Ext. 113 to reserve a copy or sign up. Want to start a group? Please do! Let [Alison Mackey](#) or [Kelly LePenske](#) know!



## Annual Meeting

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Annual Meeting via Zoom on Sunday, February 7. Pastor Spencer reviewed the ministry areas and Kelly LePenske announced her last Sunday will be May 2, as she moves to Brooklyn with fiancé Joey Sponseller (see her video on the website). [Download the Annual Report](#) from any of our platforms.

## Church Campus is CLOSED Feb. 15 for President's Day

### Pastor Vacation

Pastor Stuart will be out of the office Feb. 21-March 2. Please contact [Kelly LePenske](#) or [Jan Martin](#) for pastoral care during this time.

### CREDO: Starts March 7

CREDO is a course for young people who are interested in learning about following Jesus and becoming members of the church. Pastor Stuart Spencer and Kelly LePenske will co-lead the class which begins on **Sunday, March 7** from 11:00 am-12:15 pm in Miller Commons, following all COVID protocols. Those students who began CREDO last year are invited to complete the course this year. For info or to sign up contact Pastor Stuart at [sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org) or the church office at 856.235.1688.

### Church Entry

During regular business hours, people may enter the church building through the glass doors by Miller Commons. The back staff lot door is locked. Masks are required on campus. Staff is available by appointment in the offices and remotely.

### Registration Open for Step by Step Preschool

Open registration is underway for the 2021-2022 school year at Step by Step Christian Preschool. Applications can be found online at [www.fpcmoorestown.org/registration](http://www.fpcmoorestown.org/registration). Classes begin in September 2021 and are for 2 ½ year olds, 3-year olds and Pre-K students. Learn more at [www.fpcmoorestown.org/step-by-step-preschool](http://www.fpcmoorestown.org/step-by-step-preschool) or contact [Amy Delgado](#) at 856.235.1688, x132.

# FAMILY MINISTRY

## Wednesday Groups are OFF for February 17 (Ash Wednesday)

[Kingdom Kids](#) (K-3rd) and [Crossing Zone](#) (grades 4-6th) will NOT meet **Wednesday, February 17th** due to Ash Wednesday. The groups will meet again **Wednesday, Feb. 24** with all COVID protocols in place:

- ⇒ Kingdom Kids: 4:45-5:45 p.m. Fellowship Hall
  - ⇒ Crossing Zone: 6:30-7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- Contact [Holly Asciutto](#) at cell 609.273.7465

### One Great Hour of Sharing March 28

The Lent bags will include the One Great Hour of Sharing “fish banks,” our traditional Palm Sunday activity.



CONGRATULATIONS Dave Fauvell and Sami Stewart  
on your engagement!

**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 Asciutto**  
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)

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

**NEW!** 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. The Lent bags will also include the One Great Hour of Sharing “fish banks” for Palm Sunday's offering.

**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.

- ⇒ **What it Contains:** Each kit contains everything you need. Families will pick one day each week, and after dinner or before bedtime, take turns, reaching in and pulling out the self-contained devotion for the week. This Lent-in-a-Bag is themed “Praying with Jesus.” Each Scripture and devotion are about one of the times Jesus used prayer before a major act or immediately after. This does not require much time, but families, especially children, will look forward to each week with anticipation.
- ⇒ **How to receive one:** If you would like to pick up a Lent-in-a-Bag, they will be available beginning **Wednesday, Feb. 17th**, in the Commons Lobby during Choristers and Crossing Zone, and Sunday Mornings in the Commons Lobby.