

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.** 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](https://www.youtube.com) or [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com). 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

FPC
Moorestown

First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

February 7-14, 2021

Way of the Week 9 (February 7-14, 2021)



9. PRAY FIRST AND PRAY AGAIN. Ask *first* for God's guidance and blessing in everything you do. Through prayer, ask for wisdom and for God's will to be done. Pray for others as well, that God's love and blessing would be revealed to them in good times and in bad.

- ◆ *Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. (Proverbs 3: 5, 6)*
- ◆ *Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. (Ephesians 6: 18)*

Ideas for Action: On your next walk, run, or in your quiet time, intentionally pray for neighbors, other churches, schools, EMTs, police and fire personnel, and local officials. If you're stalled in your prayer life, reach out to one of the pastors or a member of the Prayer Team for a suggestion.

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 LiveCivilly/Moorestown Ministerium food pantry. Food may be dropped off daily at the church by the large parking lot entry

Seniors: do you need help registering for the COVID vaccine?

Chris Catanella and Ginny Weber are available to help you. [See our 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. [Find the link for the meeting on our online events page, website and eblast.](#)

The Annual Report was available Sunday, January 31 at church and distributed online through the events page, website and eblast.



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

**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 two-part 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)

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 or register on the [online Events page](#).

Guest Preacher Luke Maxted February 7

We welcome guest preacher Luke Maxted to our worship service on **Sunday, Feb. 7**. 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 UrbanPromise when they return home.



Video: Spotlight on 2020

Visit our website and eblasts to view [an uplifting video](#) celebrating FPC Moorestown's remarkable firsts this year as we coped with the global COVID-19 pandemic. And always, with God at the helm ...

Chandelier Makeover

What a difference! Thank you to Fausto de la Cruz who has been working diligently to hand polish the tarnished chandelier in the sanctuary. See his handiwork next time you're at church for worship or watching the live stream.



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
Meeting ID: 858 1209 6236
Passcode: 040982

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

The Journey of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday February 17th. That day, we will be holding two drive-through **Ashes on the Go** events at 12 noon and 5:00 pm. Participants will drive safely into the main parking lot and be greeted for prayer and, if desired, to receive the imposition of ashes or anointing oil. 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 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 and also at the Ashes on the Go. Gifts may be made online using the One Great Hour of Sharing drop down. Palm Sunday is March 28th.

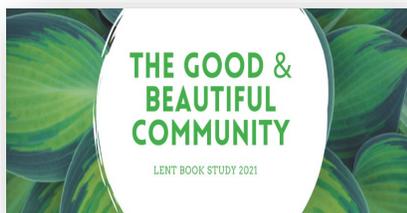
ARC Blood Drive

We will be holding a Blood Drive to support the American Red Cross 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 blood drive on Friday, May 14th. Donate a gift of life! For questions, contact Deborah Heller at (856) 273-6838 or dheller374@comcast.net. To schedule an appointment visit www.redcross.org.

Lenten Book Study

We invite all current small groups to consider reading [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 open Friday, Feb. 5; 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!



2021 Pulpit Flowers

Dates are still available for Sunday flower donations for 2021 to honor loved ones and special times 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.

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. Classes begin in September 2021 and are for 2 ½ year olds, 3-year olds and Pre-K students. Step by Step offers flexible morning or afternoon sessions for 2, 3, 4 or 5 days a week, and is open to members of the church and the community. INFO: see www.fpcmoorestown.org/step-by-step-preschool or contact director [Amy Delgado](#) at 856.235.1688, x132.

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 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. For questions please contact the church office at 856.235.1688.



PLEASE NOTE: No Sunday School on February 7 due to the Annual Meeting

[Kingdom Kids](#) (K-3rd) and [Crossing Zone](#) (grades 4-6th) will resume **Wednesday, February 10** 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 Ascitutto](#) at cell 609.273.7465

One Great Hour of Sharing March 28

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



Youth enjoying a safely spaced Movie Night in Miller Commons January 30th

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

For Families and Youth:
Dave Fauvell
609-980-7885 (cell/text)
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.”

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.

For more information please contact Holly Ascitutto hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org or cell/text 609.273.7465.