First Presbyterian Church

101 Bridgeboro Road Moorestown, NJ 08057 fpcmoorestown.org 856.235.1688

Rev. Stuart Spencer
Pastor / Head of Staff
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Kelly LePenske

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Worship. Connect. Serve. Devote.

JOIN US from the safety of your home or safely gather at church for worship Sunday morning:

8:30 am Contemporary 11:00 am Traditional

April 11 we move to our schedule of 8:30 am Traditional and 11:00 a.m. Contemporary.

Worship streams live from each worship space and participants in attendance observe strict protocols per state regulations.

Log on from any device to www.fpcmoorestown.org or YouTube or Facebook.

"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 FP



First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

April 4-11, 2021

Way of the Week 17 (April 4-11, 2021)



- **17. SHOW WHO YOU REALLY ARE.** Our church is for "real" people. Bring your true self, including your joys, your sorrows, your fears, your strengths, and your weaknesses. God loves you as you are. Don't hide your struggles, failures or problems.
- ◆ ^aWhen we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. (Romans 5: 6)
- For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. (John 3: 16)

Ideas for Action: This week, sit down with or talk to another member by phone and share one area of struggle, failure or a fear you have.

We Give to the LORD

Because Holy Week and Easter services will be primarily via live stream, holiday offerings can be submitted securely online (use Easter drop down) or mailed to the church at 101 Bridgeboro Road, Moorestown, NJ 08057. Please note "Easter offering" in memo line.

Drive Through Wedding Shower for Kelly & Joey

Sunday, April 11

Taking no chance of COVID-19 transmission before The Big Day on May 15, we are presenting a Drive Through Wedding Shower



for Kelly LePenske and Joey Sponseller, who will joyfully receive your well wishes. Please enter the main church parking

lot off of Bridgeboro Road from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Because they will be moving to Brooklyn and their living situation is in flux, it is requested that envelopes with gift cards be dropped off at the shower. See our online events page for a list of requested vendors. Volunteers will be there to safely retrieve it from your car. There will be fun activities, games and treats!

Holy Week and Easter Friday, April 2 ~ Good Friday

- Good Friday Virtual Worship
- Good Friday Tenebrae Worship at 7:00 pm (Sanctuary, Frantz Constant preaching)

Sunday, April 4 ~ Easter

- 6:30 am worship: by Cemetery Cross; Lord's Supper (in-person, outside)
- 8:30 am Contemporary Worship (live stream only)
- 11:00 am Sanctuary Worship (live stream only)



Good Friday Virtual Worship: 7 Last Words of Jesus

Friday, April 2 (YouTube)

Moorestown Ministerium presents a Virtual Good Friday Service: The Last 7 Words of Jesus featuring local preachers. Our Stuart Spencer preaches the 7th word. See the Trinity Episcopal YouTube site.



EASTER BREAK: Step by Step Christian Preschool will be closed for Spring Break April 2-12. Our Wednesday activity groups will be off the week of April 5-11. Enjoy your holiday!

Return to Two Worship Services

Beginning on **Sunday, April 11**, we will return to two worship services as approved by the Worship Committee, and are happy to be able to safely provide the experience of our Contemporary service.

- 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
- 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship (Miller Commons)
- ♦ Sunday School for ages Kindergarten to 6th grade 9:45-10:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Blood Drive May 14

You're Invited to our spring blood drive for the American Red Cross:

- Friday, May 14
- 1-6 p.m. in Miller Commons

Sign up with Debbie Heller at dhel-ler374@comcast.net or online at https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive and enter our church's name.



Pastor Study Leave

Pastor Spencer will be away on study leave April 11-19. If you need pastoral care, please contact Kelly LePenske or Jan Martin in the church office at 856.235.1688.

National Day of Prayer is May 6, 2021; Devotional

The National Day of Prayer is observed annually on the first Thursday in May. This year's theme is LORD Pour Out Your Love, Life and Liberty. (2 Corinthians 3: 17). The Prayer Committee invites you to visit our website for marvelous resources including a 40-day Prayer Guide for America, devotion, family gathering prayers and history of the bill establishing the National Day of Prayer. This day of observance, designated by Congress, asks people to turn to God in repentance and prayer. The National Day of Prayer has great significance for us as a nation as it enables us to recall and to teach the way in which our founding fathers sought the wisdom of God when faced with critical decisions. It stands as a call for us to humbly come before God, seeking His guidance for our leaders and His grace upon us as a people.

Church Building Entry

During regular business hours 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, please enter the church building through the unlocked glass doors by Miller Commons. The back staff lot door is locked. Masks are required on campus. Staff is available in the offices by appointment, email, cell and text.



Check In for LIVE STREAM

When watching the live stream, viewers are kindly asked to check in quickly on their smart phone by using the Church Center App. (At this time, check in is not available on the computer). If you haven't downloaded the "Church Center App" to your phone, please do so, and follow prompts to select our church wherever you are viewing:

- Open your Church Center App on your phone or device
- ♦ Select the "Check-In" icon
- Tap the service you're viewing
- Check-in yourself and your family members
- That's it! Our reports will tell us you were watching

Check-in procedures when attending worship in-person are unchanged: Participants and congregants check in with volunteers in the Commons Lobby using the Church Center App on your phone or the available tablets. Scan the QR code to register attendance.

Session Action: March

For a review of Session action taken at its March 23, 2021 Session meeting, see the Action Summary posted to our online events page and our website.

New: Gracism Study in June

Gracism: The Art of Inclusion - A joint, virtual study with the Converge Church, is coming in June, Thursday evenings from 7-9 p.m. FPC Moorestown and the Converge Church, a multicultural congregation in Moorestown, will join together for a four-week study of the book, Gracism: The Art of *Inclusion* by David Anderson. When people deal with color, class or culture in a negative way, that's racism. We can look at color, class and culture in a positive way. That's "gracism." Pastor David Anderson, senior pastor of the Bridgeway Community Church, invites followers of Jesus to respond to prejudice and injustice with the principle of gracism, radical inclusion for the marginalized and excluded. Our joint study allows for our two congregations to study, listen, share, and pray together while beginning or building friendships. See our online events page for information. For additional information on website: Gracism. visit the www.embracegracism.com.

Church campus is CLOSED Monday, April 5

Upcoming Dates

The staff is planning our 2021 summer calendar and 2021-2022 program year. Please submit to Jan Martin in the church office by **Tuesday, April 13** any dates or room requests you propose for this year's events, worship, or committee meetings (in-person AND virtual).

Kelly LePenske Last Sunday: May 2



Sunday School resumes April 11 — see you at 9:45 a.m.!

Kingdom Kids (K-3rd) and Crossing Zone (grades 4-6th) will be on Easter break for the weeks of March 31st and April 7th. Programs will resume on Wednesday, April 14th.

- ⇒ 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

Sunday School resumes Sunday, April 11th and returns to its regular time: 9:45-10:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

Youth Group In-Person Returns

All students grade 7–12, join us for youth group in person starting **Sunday**, **April 18**, from 6:30–8:30 PM in the Commons. Middle school and high school will be together for the remainder of this year for time with peers, worship, learning, and fellowship. Please fill out the health form on the website and wear a mask when you come. If you are not comfortable with larger group gatherings you are welcome to come at 7:45 PM for our small group time. If you have any questions please reach out to <u>Dave Fauvell</u>. Can't wait to see everyone!

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

"What is important is faith expressing itself in love."

- Galatians 5: 6

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

Vacation Bible School: June 28th - July 2nd, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Children entering Kindergarten through entering 6th grade (FALL 2021).

Cost: \$20 per child. REGISTRATION DEADLINE: June 18th

At Rocky Railway VBS, kids climb aboard for mountains of fun! On this faith-filled adventure, kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs! In an effort to provide a safe, in-person, Vacation Bible School for our children we have modified times for VBS this year to 9:30-11:30 a.m. We anticipate delivering a fun VBS with the necessary precautions in place. We are working hard to bring a spiritually meaningful program to our community.



- Safety will be our highest priority, for both our children and staff. At no time will either be compromised. All efforts will be made to abide by state, local, and FPC Moorestown church guidelines that are in place at that time.
- ♦ All children and volunteers will be required to wear facemasks when inside the building and while outside on church property. Social distance protocols will be enforced and handwashing will be encouraged.
- VBS will be a creative modified version, consisting of Biblical teachings done in an engaging yet safe manner.
- We encourage you to reach out with your questions. It is important, and our desire, to offer our children this valuable experience in a safe manner. For more information contact: Holly Asciutto at 856-235-1688 x 116 or email hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org.

ADULTS AND TEENS (7th grade and older): Interested in being a VBS volunteer? WE NEED YOU! Please contact Holly Asciutto at hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org or 856-235-1688, Ext. 116. She is excited to talk with you!