

First Presbyterian Church
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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 to worship on
Sunday morning:

**8:30 AM: Traditional
11 AM: 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](#).
The service is also posted
later in the week to our
website.

*"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

May 2-9, 2021

A Letter from Kelly LePenske

May 2, 2021

THREE YEARS AGO this month, I moved from Princeton to the historic town of Riverton where the Delaware River glistened just beyond the windows of my new apartment. Before I could unpack my boxes, I dove into full-time ministry at First Presbyterian Church in Moorestown and met many of you for the first time. Early on, it became clear to me that FPC was a cherished home for multiple generations, a place where people came to connect with God and each other not just on Sundays, but practically every day of the week. It was easy to feel God's welcome as I learned the names of preschoolers, teens, adults and lifelong members in their 90s.

I also learned some serious life lessons as a South Jersey resident. Lesson #1: Don't ever order an ice cream cone with sprinkles; only jimmies. Lesson #2: If anyone asks what you did over the weekend, just say "I went down the shore" even if you drove north to get to the beach. As important as these lessons are for a West Coaster, my favorite memories don't revolve around ice cream but you, the body of Christ at FPC. The greatest thing I'll carry with me across the Verrazano Bridge into Brooklyn is the gift of your friendship and generosity.

Thank you for inviting me into your lives, in good times and in hard times, and sharing so much with me—delicious meals, laughter, honest conversations, brilliant questions, prayers next to beeping hospital machines, volunteer projects at the shore, Spirit-led meetings that help our church grow spiritually for the short and long term... and the list goes on. Your stories have enabled me to see the Gospel at work in some truly unforgettable ways. Christ is much closer and available to us in the daily rhythms of our lives than we often believe. Don't forget to pay attention to the ordinary!

I'm proud of the way FPC Moorestown has embraced cultural change through The 25 Ways, which encourage us to grow from the inside out so that we might become more authentic, committed disciples. I'm praying for our APNC and Youth Director Search Committee, and will celebrate with you all when we know their names as God already does. You will undoubtedly bless them the way you've blessed me, with the gracious love and joy of Christ. So, in true English major form, I'm giving my last words to Mary Oliver, a favorite poet who knows how to say thank you best:

"Be slow if you must, but let the heart still play its true part. Love still as once you loved, deeply and without patience. Let God and the world know you are grateful. That the gift has been given."

— Kelly

Virtual Congregational Meeting May 2

The Session of First Presbyterian Church has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, May 2, 2021 in order to elect officers to a term beginning June 1, 2021. Please see our online Event page and website for the Zoom link. **The meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom, between services.**

Check-In Volunteers

In order to maintain our health protocols and facilitate check in for two services, we need double the help with check-in volunteers. We're looking to staff three volunteers at EACH service (3 for 8:30 a.m. Traditional; 3 for 11:00 a.m. Contemporary). For each service, two volunteers will be stationed in the Commons Lobby and one will be stationed in the narthex. Teens and adults are welcome! TEENS: earn service credit! Please see the Sign Up Genius link below for vacancies:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D48A5AD23A1FC1-help>



Coming in May: Virtual Mission Fair

The Great Commission:

Missionopoly

May 9-23, 2021

Get ready to take a virtual trip around the world! It's an interactive mission fair which takes you around the globe from the comfort of your home. Information bags will be available **May 9-23** in Miller Commons lobby.

Watch the videos, play the game, pray the devotions, compete in Trivia Night May 21 and join our missionaries live on May 23rd throughout the day for Zoom panel discussions and Q&A.

Watch for details on our Event page and website!

Support our Preschool

Make time to swing by the [Chick Fil A Centerton Square](#) to support our Preschool for two summer Spirit Nights. *Be sure to mention the Preschool in the restaurant, carry out or drive-in so we get credit!* 5:00-8:00 p.m. at the Centerton Road location in Mount Laurel:

♦ **Wednesday, May 26**

♦ **Wednesday, June 30**

Are you good with computer graphics?

The church office is looking for someone to assist with periodic art work in Canva to correlate with each sermon series.

We are also looking for volunteers with skills in newsletter production, graphic design, layout and publication editing.

Please give [Jan Martin](#) a call at 856.235.1688, Ext. 133 if interested.

Blood Drive May 14

You're Invited to our spring blood drive for the American Red Cross. Give the gift of life today.

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

Sign up with Debbie Heller at dheller374@comcast.net or online at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive> and enter our church's name.



Kelly's Last Sunday May 2

With grateful hearts for her ministry, we will say farewell to Kelly LePenske, who is moving to Brooklyn, NY to begin her life with fiancé Joey Sponseller. Kelly's last day with us will be **Sunday, May 2**, when she will preach at both services.



Congregation members will be able to wish Kelly well in person at a Drive-Through Farewell from 12:30-1:30 p.m. on **May 2**. [A letter from Pastor Stuart](#) was recently mailed with details about the event and ways to honor Kelly and her ministry at FPC Moorestown.

National Day of Prayer is May 6, 2021; Guides

The Prayer Committee encourages you to please pray as a family, in advance of the National Day of Prayer on May 6. You can begin praying on Thursday, April 29, for the 8 days leading up to the National Day of Prayer. You may use the 2021 National Day of Prayer or other GUIDES [on our Event page and website](#) to assist you and your family in specific ways to pray.

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).* Please [visit our website](#) for marvelous resources including:

1. [Fast Forward Prayer Guide for America](#)
2. [How to Pray for America](#)
3. [2021 National Prayer for America.](#)



Missionwares Sale

Save the date! Missionwares yard sale! Sale will be held outside on **Sunday, May 16** and all items discounted to sell! Watch for details soon. We're spring cleaning!

Live Stream Choir Concert

Save the Date: FPC Moorestown Choral Concert presented on **Sunday, June 6** at 7:30 p.m. via live stream from the sanctuary. All vocal choirs. Details to follow.

Groups Using the Building

A reminder that all meetings in the building must be cleared through church office, and abide by health protocols for safe gatherings. Only select rooms in the church are available. All participants to be masked and submit COVID-19 health forms. Physical distancing is required and entry to the building is through the glass doors by Miller Commons. Please contact the church office at 856.235.1688.

Sunday Study: Discipleship

Join Pastor Stuart and Rev. Paul Ascitto for a Sunday study of discipleship (9:45 am). Participants will use the companion Study Guide for the Discipleship Gospel (\$10). The class begins on Sunday, May 23rd and concludes on August 16th. The study will be offered both in-person and virtually via Zoom. Masks are required on campus. At this time, the in-person study will be in Room 8. Please REGISTER on our [online Events page](#) (blue-green oval).

Watching the Live Stream?

When watching the live stream, please remember to check in on your smart phone by using the Church Center App. Just follow the prompts where you are viewing:

- ◆ Open the Church Center App on your phone or device
- ◆ Select the "Check-In" icon
- ◆ Tap the service you're viewing
- ◆ Check-in yourself and family

Check-in procedures when attending worship in-person are unchanged: check in with volunteers in the Commons Lobby.

Farewell and Best Wishes

April 25th was the last Sunday for our seminary interns **Beth Douglass** and **Frantz Constant**. We thank them both for their hands-on ministry and wish them God's speed as they begin new opportunities serving the Lord.

Administrative Assistant **Rachel Scarborough** has found a new job opportunity, one that fits her career goals. Due to the urgency of her new job, which involves travel and is time sensitive, her last day was April 28th. We wish Rachel well and truly enjoyed the experience of working with her.

June 6 will be the last day for **Dave Fauvell**, our interim youth director. Dave, who teaches photography at Moorestown HS, ably stepped in to repackage our youth groups following the departure of Dan Wonneberger, and we are very grateful. Dave stepped right into a pandemic! Dave and his fiancée Sami Stewart are getting married June 11th.

Gracism Study in June

Gracism: The Art of Inclusion – A 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, join for a four-week study of *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." REGISTER on our [online events page](#). Visit the Gracism website: www.embracegracism.com.

FAMILY MINISTRY

NO Sunday School May 2 due to Special Meeting of the Congregation

Kingdom Kids (K-3rd) and **Crossing Zone** (grades 4-6th) meet on **Wednesday, May 5th**. We can't wait to see you. Contact [Holly Asciutto](#) at cell 609.273.7465.

- ⇒ Kingdom Kids: 4:45-5:45 p.m. Fellowship Hall
- ⇒ Crossing Zone: 6:30-7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Save the Date for End of Year Parties

Kingdom Kids **May 12** ~ Crossing Zone **May 19**
(during regular group meeting times)

Sundays: In-Person Youth Group

All students grade 7-12, join us for youth group in person 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 [Dave Fauvell](#). 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
"The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News."

- Mark 1: 15

For Families and Children:
Holly Asciutto
856-235-1688, x116
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 9, 2021**

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. 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 is our highest priority, for both children and staff. 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.
- ♦ Please reach out with any questions to 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!

