First Presbyterian Church 101 Bridgeboro Road MAIL: PO Box 868 Moorestown, NJ 08057 <u>fpcmoorestown.org</u> 856.235.1688

Rev. Stuart Spencer Pastor/Head of Staff sspencer@fpcmoorestown.org

Rev. Wes Allen Associate Pastor wallen@fpcmoorestown.org

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 II AM: Contemporary

Worship streams live from each worship space and participants in attendance observe health 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 FP



First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

#### September 19-25, 2021



# Way of the Week 16 (Sept. 19-25)

- **16. GIVE CHEERFULLY.** Rejoice, you get to give!<sup>a</sup> Think of giving as a privilege rather than an obligation, a joy instead of a burden. As you consider all that's been entrusted to you time, abilities and money ask, "How is God calling me to share what I've been given?"<sup>b</sup>
  - <sup>a</sup>You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." (2 Corinthians 9: 7)
  - "Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back." (Luke 6: 38)

**Ideas for Action:** Consider making a special financial gift this week to the church or one of our mission partners. What else, besides money, can you give this week? How about your time or your forgiveness?

Bible Sunday Sunday, September 19, 2021 9:45-10:45 a.m. in the Wong Garden Ice Cream Social to Meet Your New Sunday School Teachers!

Third Graders receive their Bibles during worship

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#### Welcome Paul Savage

TODAY: We welcome Paul Savage to our pastoral staff as our semi-

nary intern for 2021-2022. Paul grew up in Portland, Michigan, and graduated from Moody Bible Institute with a major in Biblical



Studies and a minor in Biblical Languages. He is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Theological Studies at Princeton Theological Seminary with an emphasis in New Testament. In his free time, Paul enjoys reading, working out, and playing guitar. He is a selfdescribed "huge history nerd" and his favorite sport to follow is mixed martial arts. When it comes to movies, books, and music, Paul says he usually aims for the classics. Paul will be involved in worship services, Christian education, pastoral care, and church operations. Paul will also be helping to lead our youth ministry.

#### Choir Open House Sept. 29

Current/past choir members and FPC Moorestown members are asked to come and **bring a friend**! Meet with current choir members and see video clips of the recent European choir tour and youth choir concerts, to see how rewarding joining the youth choir can be! Tours of the music facilities are available. To-go dessert will be provided.

Contact Kristen Perkowski (732-779-8948) or Laurie LaMonica (609 -304-9720) for questions.

SAVE THE DATE American Red Cross Blood Drive Monday, Nov. 1 from 1-6 p.m. Fellowship Hall



#### We Give to the Lord

It's Coming! On Sunday, Octo**ber 17** we will celebrate the joy of living a generous Christcentered life with our annual stewardship campaign. Like last year, Estimate of Giving cards will be mailed to all members so that households may prayerfully (and safely) indicate their weekly, monthly or annual financial commitments to the Lord's Work. We will all be together (in -person or via live stream) for ONE 9:30 a.m. service, where we will welcome an engaging speaker Rev. Sam Massengill. During worship, we will prayerfully dedicate our gifts. You may also return by mail, fill out online, or swing through a Drive -Through Dedication & Blessing that day. Watch your mail for special information in September. Our sermon series "Now Is The Time" begins Sept. 26 to provide a biblical framework and church members will share their personal stories.

## **Church Has Left the Building**

Sunday, October 24 No adult education or Sunday School Stay tuned for more information

#### Church Center App — Check Ins

Please sign in each Sunday. This simple check-in replaces the previous sign-in pads and provides accurate reports. Please download the Church Center app on your phone for a simple, easy check-in to help us accurately record attendance and visitors.

REMINDER: When watching the live stream or attending in person, please remember to **check in** on your smart phone to register your attendance.

#### Youth Parents Information Meeting

Attention Parents of Middle School and High School Youth:

Sunday, September 26 12 noon in Fellowship Hall (masks required please) Middle School (grades 7-8) High School (grades 9-12)

The search is underway for a full-time youth director, and we continue to pray for the search committee as they find the one God is calling to lead our youth. With the school year underway, we are planning youth programming in the interim. Let's lean in together to the LORD's call. We welcome **Luke Maxted** to the youth team (page 3)!

#### **PW Fall Gathering** Monday, September 20th 10:00 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)

Ruth Stotsenburg will introduce the group to the engaging new Presbyterian Women small group study *"What my Grandmothers Taught Me-Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy."* Circle Leaders will offer a personal invitation to their particular groups, which begin in October. **Zoom link on our event page and** website.

#### **Adult Spiritual Formation**

Started Sept. 15th: The Engagement Project, a 10-week study which will meet Wednesday evenings at the church. When we draw near to God and contemplate His divine nature, it exposes us, as it did Isaiah. Sign up online on our website or events page or contact Jim Cole at jamescole7@comcast.net or 856-296-5732. Friends from other churches encouraged to attend.



#### Fall Inquirers Class

Welcome prospective new members! Several individuals interested in learning more about FPC Moorestown and the Presbyterian faith met for a three-part Inquirers Class this past week. On Sept. 19 those who wish to join the church will meet with Session to present their Statements of Faith and officially join the church.

These individuals will be welcomed at worship next week **Sunday, Sept. 26**. Please introduce yourself to these newest members of our church.

#### **Deacons' Toiletry Drive**

Through September, the Deacons are collecting toiletries for St. Matthew's Ministerium Food Pantry. Please see our event page or website for <u>suggested items</u>.

#### **NEW: Adult Education**

Join Lorenzo Eagles and Wes Allen on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall or via Zoom (see event page for link) for our fall adult education hour. Each week we will dive headfirst into the Word of God as we reflect on and explore that week's sermon text. A study guide will be provided electronically on the church website.

There will be NO adult education on October 17 (Consecration Sunday), or October 24 (Church Has Left the Building).

## Stephen Ministry Training Class in October

The goal of Stephen Ministry is to provide distinctively Christian lay ministry to people in need. Without well-trained Stephen Ministers there's no ministry. We will be starting a new class for those who would like to train to be a Stephen Minister, beginning on Monday, October 25. If you are interested in more information about this class, sign up online on this page or contact Doris Kahley at 609-61-8474 or <u>d.kahley@verizon.net</u>.

#### Youth News!

Luke Maxted was recently hired as our part-time Interim Youth Director. Luke and his wife Kelly are fellows with Urban Promise. Next spring, they return to England with their two sons where the Maxteds hope to launch an Urban Promise site in London. Luke serves with our youth advisors as they together lead our Senior High Fellowship on Sunday evenings (Wave) and our Middle School Fellowship on Wednesday evenings (Flock).



New Sermon Series begins Sunday, Sept. 26

#### Check-In Help Needed

With two worship services in person, we need help on Sunday mornings assisting with attendance check -ins. <u>Sign up online</u> for one Sunday or as many as you can to help those who need it to check in on our tablets or call the church office.

#### September 12 Fund

September 12th marked the 133rd Birthday of our church. In honor of the church's founding on September 12, 1888, members are encouraged to donate to our future by giving to the September 12 endowment fund. The fund is invested to earn income which helps to support the needs of our church. Mail, place in the offering, or <u>give online</u>.



# Sunday School regular classes begin September 26 (9:45-10:45 a.m.)

## ⇒ Meet Your Teachers/Ice Cream Social Sunday, Sept. 19th!

Sunday School: Join us on Sunday, Sept. 19, for a meet your teacher/ice cream social event (9:45 am). We can't wait to see you! The first day of regular classes will be on Sunday, Sept. 26th.

Children's Sunday School meets Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45 a.m., where children learn about the Word of God, the love of God, and His rescue plan, the Promised Savior, Jesus! Children and teachers will be asked to wear face masks. This is for children in K-6th grades.

# Junior and Senior High Youth

While the search committee continues to look for our new youth director, several folks have 'joined hands' to help plan youth activities. See our website for info.

- ⇒ MIDDLE SCHOOL: Liz Greene, a volunteer youth leader for over 15 years, will be helping with our middle school programming for grades 7-8.
- ⇒ HIGH SCHOOL: Senior high events for grades 9-12 will be led by Dave Fauvell and his wife Sami Fauvell, two of our gifted youth ministry leaders.

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

A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones. (Ecclesiastes 3:5) For Families and Children: Holly Asciutto 856-235-1688, ×116 hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org

For Families and Youth: The search is underway for a new Youth Director!

#### **Bible Sunday for Third Graders**

On Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, we as a church family get to celebrate a Faith stepping stone in the life of our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. It is Bible Sunday, where our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders receive their own Bible. We ask the congregation to pray that God's Word and love become real to each of them.

#### Join a Choir this Year!

Opportunities are available for all ages and abilities in our music ministry under the leadership of Director of Music Joel Krott and Bell Choir Director Kathy Gunsallus. Come try it this year! You know you want to! Choir rehearsals begin:

- Bell Choir: Tues. Sept. 7 (6:15 pm)
- Choristers (Grades 5-8): Wed. Sept. 15 (5:00 pm)
- Adult Choir: Thurs. Sept. 9 (7:30 pm)

- Junior Choir (Grades 2-4): Tues. Sept. 14 (4:00 pm)
- Chapel Choir (Grades 9-12): Tues. Sept. 14 (7:00 pm)
- Primary Choir (Grades K-1): Wed. Sept. 29 (4:00 pm)

#### Kids Groups and Youth Groups

⇒ Senior High Youth Group Wave begins **Sunday, September 26** (7-9 p.m.) - Grades 9-12

 $\Rightarrow$  Kingdom Kids (K-3rd) and Crossing Zone (4th-6th) begin Wednesday, October 6