



We aspire to be beacons of God's love and truth ...

October 15, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of FPC Moorestown,

The word “church” in the Greek of the New Testament means a gathering of God’s people in a specific space, like Rome, Corinth or Philippi. John Leeman is a writer who recently wrote about the significance of this simple act we do on Sunday mornings:

“Churches gather because as outposts or embassies of heaven they must become visible and audible and touchable, as touchable as elbows touching in the pew. Humans are physical creatures. Bodies matter. Space matters. Physical togetherness matters. And churches need a patch of geography on which to gather together so that they might become what they are—an assembly (in the original Greek) or a church (in English translation).”

Realizing that this patch of Moorestown at the point of Riverton and Bridgeboro Roads is an assembly of heaven makes what we do on Sunday mornings more significant than we might realize. A piece of heaven, the place where God rules, is to be found among us whenever we gather to worship and serve him. That’s why I want to invite you to gather here for three special Sundays, the final three of October.

On Sunday October 17, 24 and 31 there will be a single worship service at **9:30 a.m.** Each Lord’s Day will be different from the others; and the differences can be explained in three short words: give, go, and gather.

GIVE

This coming Sunday, October 17 is Consecration Sunday. We’ll present our Estimate of Giving cards as an act of our worship. You’re invited to attend our single service at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary or watch our live stream with your blank Estimate of Giving Card close by. I’ve asked you to prepare to give by thinking, talking to those closest to you and praying *before* you complete your pledge. At the conclusion of our worship service, after a sermon by our guest preacher, Rev. Sam Massengill, you’ll have time to fill in your card and offer it to God when we leave the Sanctuary to enjoy an outdoor reception in our courtyard. If you watch from home, please drive your Estimate of Giving card to the main parking lot of the church between 11:30 a.m. and noon.

If you’re unable to be here that day, you can submit your Estimate of Giving electronically by visiting <https://fpcmoorestown.churchcenter.com/people/forms/261331>.

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GO

We leave our worship spaces on October 24 for the third year of Church Has Left the Building. There will be a short, 30-minute worship service that morning at 9:30 a.m., outside in the courtyard between the

Sanctuary and Miller Commons. Rev. Chuck Swanson of Options for Women, a local mission partner of ours, is our guest preacher. We'll sing, we'll pray, we'll listen to God's Word proclaimed by Rev. Swanson, and then we'll go serve the Lord and our community. Here's the link for all of the mission opportunities awaiting us: <https://fpcmoorestown.churchcenter.com/groups/church-has-left-the-building-2021>

Many of the mission projects involve making a meal or filling bags before dropping it off in our Main Parking lot from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Members of the Moorestown Police Department are our guests that afternoon. They are here to serve us. The Police Department has a shredder to dispose of your documents. Officers also will happily check your car seats to ensure they are correctly installed. We're looking to serve these local heroes by purchasing \$5 Wawa gift cards before October 24.

GATHER

The final Sunday of October is also the fifth Sunday of the month. Once more, we'll have one worship at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. We blend our two styles of worship as we enjoy the gift of being together for worship and fellowship. Bring your own lunch/brunch and enjoy outdoor fellowship together on a crisp fall day. Visit the mobile clinic for Options for Women in our parking lot. For Presbyterians and other denominations born from the Protestant Reformation, that Sunday is also Reformation Sunday. We give thanks for the rich heritage we've received from those before us who have given sacrificially and gone to serve the world courageously.

I look forward to experiencing God's kingdom here with you in each of these coming three Sundays.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Stuart

Stuart Spencer
Pastor