



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



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FPC MOORESTOWN "CHURCH HAS LEFT THE BUILDING" CELEBRATES HEROES

Members and friends will engage in mission activities Sunday, October 24.

MOORESTOWN, NJ — For the third year, First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown members get to dress comfy on a Sunday. Instead of going to church, adult education and Sunday School, members and families will head out into the community to be hands and feet of the church for their "Church Has Left the Building" event.

This year church members will gather for a 30-minute outdoor worship service at 9:30 a.m. to kick off the day's activities. Rev. Chuck Swanson from Options for Women, one of the church's mission partners, will preach outdoors in the courtyard.

New to this year's event is a "High Five for Heroes." Between 1-3 pm, Moorestown Police and Fire Department will be in the main parking lot to check car seats and give community members information about keeping safe this fall and winter. Additionally, they will bring a shredding truck and provide free shredding of documents to all community members. In addition to police and fire, local ministries who are the recipients of the outreach are available in the parking lot. Seeds of Hope, the Christian Caring Center, Urban Promise and many others will be on hand to give out info on their ministries. Community members can drop off non-perishable food items for a food drive for the Christian Caring Center.

"Our church is a missional church," explains Linda Jagiela, director of outreach. "This event allows everyone in our church community to be involved in outreach activities. Last year, the event was a great "pivot" and this year we want to continue the momentum that is in place."

Activities included painting at shelters; cleaning up ministry properties; making bags of holdover food for those in need when food is not available; writing letters to shut-ins, veterans and active ministry; preparing home-cooked meals for foster parents; and packing shoe boxes for new college students. New this year, Birthday Bags are being prepared for food pantries to allow recipients to

have all their party needs in one place. Christmas stockings are being prepared for senior citizen clients of the Christian Caring Center to make their holiday merry.

Reverend Stuart Spencer introduced the concept to FPC Moorestown, “This is a great event for fellowship at our church as well as outreach. The program is developed so that there is something for everyone,” explains Spencer. “When serving others, we worship God. This event puts faith in action.”

Participants will bring completed projects to a drop-off parade between 1 and 3 p.m. in the large church parking lot. Drop-offs will be zero contact and socially distanced around the space. Pastor Spencer and members of the mission team will welcome people and pray with them when requested.

The day will end with a shout out to our local heroes at 2:30 pm where they will be presented \$5 Wawa gift cards as a token of appreciation. All community members are welcome to come and enjoy the celebration.

More than 350 church members and friends participated in the 2020 event, “Our congregants are eager to break the boredom and isolation that COVID-19 has caused and do something meaningful,” says Spencer. “This event allows us to volunteer together safely.”

Mission is not a one-time event at FPC Moorestown. Mission is an ongoing focus includes local and global service organization support, a mission-focused book club, volunteer opportunities, Carol’s House that offers housing for furloughed missionaries, and a Missionwares store that features free-trade items from SERVV and Ten Thousand Villages. The “Church Has Left the Building” experience gives members the opportunity to try different activities and get out of their comfort zone. The goal is to offer people meaningful activities that may become a regular part of their lives. Working and helping others in both big and small ways is truly putting faith in action.

First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown is located at 101 Bridgeboro Road in Moorestown. To volunteer to help with Church Has Left The Building, contact Linda Jagiela at missions@fpcmoorestown.org or the church office at (856) 235-1688. Learn more at www.fpcmoorestown.org.

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