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

October 17-23, 2021



Way of the Week 20 (Oct. 17-23)

20. FIND STRENGTH IN BELONGING. At FPC Moorestown, you're loved and valued. Claim us as your family. Rather than withdrawing, allow struggles and disappointments to deepen your sense of belonging. Pray for chances to bring healing to relationships. Please be patient! God isn't yet finished with us or with you.

For we don't live for ourselves or die for ourselves. If we live, it's to honor the Lord. And if we die, it's to honor the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. Christ died and rose again for this very purpose – to be Lord both of the living and of the dead. (Romans 14: 7-9)

Ideas for Action: Is there a disappointment you've been carrying about the church? In prayer, offer it to the Lord and ask for His help in releasing it. If you've been sitting on the sidelines at home, get back in the game by returning to worship and joining a small group, a class or a committee. We need you.

Pastor's Update Letter

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. Read the Pastor's Update Letter on our website, Friday eblast or current events page. There will be no nursery care, adult education or Sunday School. We look forward to seeing your families in worship.

- October 17: GIVE ... Consecration Sunday
- October 24: GO ... Church Has Left the Building
- October 31: GATHER 5th Sunday, bring a lunch to enjoy outside

Page 2

We Give to the LORD

On **Sunday, October 17** we celebrate the joy of living a generous Christ-centered life with our annual stewardship emphasis. In September *Estimate of Giving* cards and supporting material was mailed so members may prayerfully discuss 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 Rev. Sam Massengill as our guest preacher. During worship, we will prayerfully complete and dedicate our gifts. If you won't be here that day, you may return by mail, fill out online, or swing through a Drive-Through Dedication from 11:30-Noon that day. Our series "Now Is The Time" has provided a biblical framework for this emphasis highlighted by personal stories from church members. To assist with budget projections, we kindly ask that all estimates be turned in by October 31.



Missionwares Re-Opening

Look for the Grand Re-opening of Missionwares on Sunday, October 31. Volunteers to work on Sundays between services are needed and welcome! Contact coordinator Jen Allen or the church office.



Church Has Left the Building Sunday, October 24 9:30 am outdoor worship

On Sunday, October 24, we are leaving the building. Literally. Our church-wide mission project has been redesigned to reflect the pandemic, and this year, all activities will again be safely done off-site. There will be LOTS of fun activities that individuals and shut-ins can do with minimal amounts of effort.

SIGN UP on our current events page or website.

At 9:30 a.m. there will be a 30minute outdoor service in the courtyard between the Sanctuary and Miller Commons. Rev. Chuck Swanson of Options for Women preaches. Please bring your own chairs, masks are optional outdoors. There will be no nursery care, adult education or Sunday School.

"Kingdom of God" Bible Study

A new Sunday evening small group Bible study focuses on the Kingdom of God. Facilitated by Dick and Lissa Herman, this *LifeGuide Bible Study* will help us better understand a theme which is close to the heart of Jesus. The 10-session study will meet via Zoom—the link will be provided to each person who registers to participate.

Class meets Sundays from 6:30-8:00 pm, and runs from October 17th to February 6, 2022 on Zoom.

Purchase the study guide *The Kingdom of God* by Gregory Jao from Inter-Varsity Press, Amazon or Christianbook.com.

Check Ins

THANK YOU for registering your attendance each Sunday you're here. Our simple automated check-in replaces the Friendship sign-in pads and provides accurate records of members and guests for the Membership Committee, staff and pastoral care. Download the Church Center app on your phone for this quick way to let us know you're here. If



you need help, please see the volunteer in the Commons Lobby or Narthex.

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

AMERICAN RED CROSS

Give the Gift of Life

Give the Gift of Life at a blood drive for the American Red Cross here, **Monday, Nov. 1** from 1-6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. To sign up visit <u>www.redcross.org</u> or contact coordinator Debbie Heller at <u>dhel-</u> ler374@comcast.net.

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 are starting a 10-week class for those who would like to train to be a Stephen Minister, beginning on **Monday, Oct. 25.** If you are interested in this class, sign up online or contact Doris Kahley at d.kahley@verizon.net.

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 current events page for link) for our fall adult education hour. Each week we 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 Oct. 17 (Consecration Sunday), or Oct. 24 (Church Has Left the Building) or Oct. 31 (5th Sunday). **12-Hour Prayer Vigil** Consecration Sunday October 17 and The Church Has Left the Building October 24

Our "River of Prayer" is widening and constantly flowing! The Prayer Committee will hold its next <u>"12-Hour Prayer Vigil"</u> on **Saturday, October 16th** to provide our church family an opportunity to reflect on our stewardship emphasis for Consecration Sunday, October 17th: "Now Is The Time." We will also focus on prayer for "The Church Has Left the Building" Sunday, October 24th.

Please <u>SIGN UP online</u> for a 30minute time between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. A special Prayer Guide will be emailed to everyone who signs up and will also be available on the church website. For questions please contact Prayer Committee chair Pam Engle at 609-332-7513 or pam@pamengle.com.

Knitting Network will meet on Sat. Nov. 6 from 10 am-noon in Room 8. We make prayer shawls and lap robes, scarves and hats of all sizes. If you like to knit or crochet please consider joining us.

Check-In Help Needed

With two worship services in person, we're looking for 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. Teens and adults; teens, earn service credit! Contact Alison in the church office 856-235-1688, x113.

Power of Prayer

Sunday mornings following both worship services a member of the Prayer Team and an Elder will be in the Prayer Chapel for about 10 minutes to greet anyone with a prayer request. You're encouraged to take a couple minutes to stop by.

5th Sunday

Sunday, October 31 9:30 a.m. worship Rev. Chuck Swanson preaching No nursery care, adult education or Sunday School Bring a lunch/brunch for afterwards

Organ-Vocal Concert

Sunday, October 31 Jim and Grace Roman 7:30 p.m.

Associate Pastor Installation Service

Sunday, November 14 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Sunday Worship Flowers

Reservations are being taken now for Sunday flower donations for 2022. Vases are \$40 each and two vases are available each Sunday. To reserve dates, contact Rumi Sinunu at <u>rts319@gmail.com</u> or (856) 266-4047 or the church office. What better way to commemorate loved ones or special dates in your life.

Congregational Meeting November 7

A congregational meeting has been called for **Sunday, Nov. 7** after the 8:30 a.m. service for the election of a deacon. See our website for more information. The brief meeting will be live streamed as well.



No nursery care or Sunday School October 17, October 24 or October 31

Wednesday Night Kids Groups

KINGDOM KIDS (Grades Kindergarten-3rd):

- Led by Holly Asciutto
- Wednesdays 4:45-5:45 p.m.

CROSSING ZONE (Grades 4-6)

- Led by Holly Asciutto
- Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Kids Groups started October 3rd. Welcome back! See link to SIGN UP below

Youth Groups

Come hang out with our Middle School and High School Youth Groups. We have awesome activities planned. <u>See</u> <u>our website for info.</u> (see link to SIGN UP below).

- ⇒ MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 7-8): Led by Liz Greene, Luke Maxted, Paul Savage and Stuart Spencer. Wednesdays 6:30-8:00 pm
- ⇒ HIGH SCHOOL (Grades 9-12): Led by Dave Fauvell, Sami Fauvell, Luke Maxted and Carl Krott. Wednesdays 6:30-8:30 pm

Kingdom Kids: Grades K-3 Wednesdays 4:45-5:45 pm Crossing Zone: Grades 4-6 Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 pm Middle School: Grades 7-8 Wednesdays 6:30-8:00 pm High School: Grades 9-12 Sundays 6:30-8:30 pm

Sermon Series Memory Verse

Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God's law. This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. (Romans 13: 10, 11)

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!



Pop Tart and PJ Party Sunday, November 7th!

Due to October's special events, we will NOT meet for Sunday School on October 17th (Consecration Sunday), October 24th (Church Has Left the Building or October 31 (5th Sunday). We look forward to seeing you in Worship those days.

On **Sunday, November 7th** please join us for a PopTart and PJ Party during Sunday School hour. Children are invited to wear their PJs to Sunday School that week. We will supply the Pop-Tarts! We look forward to seeing you back on November 7 at 9:45 am!!!

Kids and Youth Groups: Registration is OPEN

These groups are for children and youth in K through 12th grade. They will share opportunities to learn about God, play games, and find community among their peers. For safety, all children, youth, and leaders must wear masks the entire time they are in the building and participating with their groups.

Please SIGN UP online for Kingdom Kids, Crossing Zone, Middle School Youth Group and High School Youth Group:

https://fpcmoorestown.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/281608

KIDS AND YOUTH