

First Presbyterian Church
101 Bridgeboro Road
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fpcmoorestown.org
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Rev. Stuart Spencer
Pastor/Head of Staff
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Rev. Wes Allen
Associate Pastor
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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 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 infor-
mation **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

FPC 
Moorestown

First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

November 21-27, 2021



Way of the Week 25 (Nov. 21-27)

25. REJOICE ALWAYS. The Kingdom of God is a party! Let healthy laughter fill our meetings, our meals, and even our worship. Allow the joy of our faith be clearly evident in our speech and on our faces.

- *But his father said to the servants, "Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now is found." So the party began. (Luke 15: 22-24)*
- *Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again – rejoice! (Philippians 4: 4)*
- *A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit saps a person's strength. (Proverbs 17: 22)*

Ideas for Action: Plan a party for the coming weekend and invite a couple of individuals or families over to celebrate. Don't forget the cake! What's the occasion? The joy of knowing and serving Jesus and belonging to our church family are reasons enough.



Pastor Installation

If you were unable to attend the installation of Rev. Wes Allen on Sunday, November 14, you can view the music-filled service on our live stream webpage at www.fpcmoorestown.org.

Thanksgiving Postcards

Included in worship bulletins on **November 21** will be Thanksgiving postcards. Fill out the name and address of someone you are grateful for and wish to tell, and place addressed postcards in the offering plate for the church to mail or mail at home.

Thanksgiving Breaks

- ♦ **Wed. Nov. 24:** no kids groups or middle school youth group
- ♦ **Thu. Nov. 25** — CLOSED
- ♦ **Fri. Nov. 26** — CLOSED
- ♦ **Sun. Nov. 28;** Sunday School, nursery and adult education as scheduled; no high school youth group



Longest Night Service

Sunday, December 12 (7 pm)

This unique service provides peace to those dealing with grief, illness, anxiety or depression who may not feel the holiday joy or celebration seen in others. Seminary intern Paul Savage preaches. The event will stream live on the church's website. The Longest Night is a Service of Remembrance, including the Lord's Supper, special music and a time for prayer. All ages and faiths are welcome to take communion. Please share this event with those you know who might need a quiet place, an authentic respite in the midst of busy holiday activities, or who have experienced a loss.

If you have someone you would like us to invite, please provide their name and address to Alison Mackey in the church office so we may send them an invitation letter. Contact Alison Mackey at 856.235.1688, Ext. 113 or amackey@fpcmoorestown.org.

A Quick Check in

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 for the Membership Committee, staff and member care. Download the Church Center app on your phone to easily check in. 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 note your participation.

We Give to the LORD

As of Nov. 19, we have received 190 pledges, slightly surpassing our total a year ago. If you have not yet returned your 2022 Estimate of Giving, please return by mail, [fill out online](#), place in the offering, or email to Norm Vandergrift in the church office. We want to hear from you!

Springtime in Israel: Walking With Jesus

Ruth Stotsenburg will be leading this guided tour from May 9-22, 2022. Don't miss this opportunity. This is an extraordinary tour, going north into Galilee, Golan, four days in Jerusalem, then down into the wilderness. Want to sign up? Contact Ruth Stotsenburg at 856-220-1602 rstots@gmail.com, or Pam Engle (609) 332-7513 or pam@pamengle.com. Limit is 25 persons in order to keep the price at a low \$3,636 for the entire two weeks - a significant bargain. Ruth says this is her last overseas trip, so take advantage of this spectacular tour.

INFORMATION MEETING

Sunday, Nov. 21 at 3:00 pm (Room 8)

WJCMS Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 5 at 7:30 pm in our Sanctuary

West Jersey Chamber Chorale and Brass, directed by Joel Krott, presents a Christmas concert "An International Christmas Celebration." Enjoy music from many cultures that tell the saving grace of God from the promise of Advent to the Nativity through Epiphany. Pieces are short and colorful and filled with variety; listeners young and old will enjoy the beauty and truth of Christmas through music: familiar, ancient, and new.

TICKETS: \$28 regular, \$18 senior (65+), 18 years or younger, FREE. Tickets available at the door or by calling Andrew Cates at 856-495-4636. Visit www.wjcms.org. Live streamed on our [website](#).

Adult Education/Youth

Sunday School

Adult education continues in Fellowship Hall at 9:45 am. It is 7th grade through adults. Youth and adults start off together, then youth branch out into their own group led by either Lorenzo Eagles, Wes Allen or Dave Fauvell.

Check-In Help Needed

With two worship services, we're looking for lots of help on Sunday mornings assisting with attendance check-ins. [Sign up online](#) 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. Super easy to train!

Missionwares Open

Missionwares has reopened! Volunteers are needed to work on Sundays between services are needed and welcome! Contact [Jen Allen](#) or the church office.

Holiday Worship

Thursday, December 23

Christmas Eve Service

- 3:00 pm Outdoor
- 7:00 pm Outdoor

Friday, December 24

Christmas Eve (sanctuary)

- 4:00 pm Family Service
- 6:00 pm Family Service
- 8:30 pm Communion
- 11:00 pm Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 26

9:30 a.m. blended worship

Advent Devotionals

As we prepare our hearts for the birth of Christ, we will be reading *"Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas"* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer for our Advent devotionals. This is a beautiful resource. Order your copy from [Amazon](#) or www.christianbook.com. There are also limited copies available in the church office for \$12.

Advent Guide

Look soon for a special *Advent Activity Guide* with programming information for the season's events and special dates. There is something meaningful for all ages.

Poinsettia Sales

Nov. 21, Nov. 28, Dec.

5. Order forms available in *Connections* and online. \$15 per plant



Need a Copy of your Giving Record?

If you would like a copy of your current 2021 financial statement to see where you are with your pledge, contact Norm Vandergrift in the church office at nvandergrift@fpcmoorestown.org. Thank you for completing 2021 pledges by December 31. Final statements for 2021 will be sent in January.

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.

Christmas Toy Drive

Annette Emerson is conducting the annual toy drive for the Presbytery Food Shelf in Camden. Can you help? Drop off new, **unwrapped** toys labeled "Emerson" at church or at the Emerson home (329 Springhouse).

Deacons Online Drive

Please visit yougivegoods.com/fpcm2021 to go to our personalized event page where you can "shop" and choose which items to give. The Wish List includes an array of cold weather accessories, clothing, games and books. Items will be delivered directly to the Christian Caring Center and distributed to those in need. **Please complete online gift purchases by Monday, Nov. 29.** Have fun shopping!

Alternative Gift Market Catalog is now available

Ways of the Week

Round 7 of the Ways begins Sunday, Nov. 28, the First Sunday in Advent, with Way 1: Be Third.

Sunday Worship Flowers

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



Have you noticed someone missing from church? Give them a call.



We give thanks to you, O Lord

Thanksgiving Holiday Schedule

Have a blessed and restful Thanksgiving holiday.

- ♦ **Wednesday, November 24:** NO Kingdom Kids, Crossing Zone, or Middle School Youth Group
- ♦ **Thursday, November 25 and Friday, November 26:** The church campus will be CLOSED. Turkey time!
- ♦ **Sunday, November 28:** Sunday School and nursery as scheduled; NO High School Youth Group

SIGN UP for High School Retreat **January 21-23, 2022; DUE NOV. 30**

HIGH SCHOOLERS: Get ready for one of the best weekends of the year. Pull back from every day life and reconnect with God. This weekend at Lake Champion has been a formative one for our students for years. If you've never been with us on a wintercamp retreat, this is the year! Build memories that will last a lifetime and grow a relationship with a loving God.

REGISTRATION DUE BY NOV. 30. Cost: \$150 per person for the weekend. See Dave Fauvell for questions.

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

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and hope." (Jeremiah 29: 11)

For Families and Children:

Holly Asciutto
856-235-1688, x116
hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org

For Families and Youth:

**The search is underway for a
new Youth Director**

Virtual Gingerbread Challenge 2021



Our annual Gingerbread challenge will be virtual again this year. Come to the church and pick up a kit for you and your family to decorate together, beginning November 14th - 23rd! **The challenge will begin on November 21 and end on November 29 at midnight.**

The kits this year are train-themed. As in previous years, it is a basic kit, and you will need to personalize it. You do not have to use the train kit. You can use one of your choosing. Make it colorful, make it interesting, make it unique!! HAVE FUN!

When you have completed your challenge, please take pictures, and either post them on the FPC Family Ministries Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/455452324633585> (ask Holly to join). Or send photos to Holly Asciutto at hasciutto@fpcmoorestown.org. Judging will be held Nov. 30-Dec. 3. Oh, and there will be prizes!!

SEE INFORMATION on our current events page, website or Facebook pages. [And check out the video!](#)

Looking for Advent Candle Lighters

Would your family like to light one of the Advent wreaths during Advent? The Worship Committee is looking for individuals for both 8:30 a.m. traditional and 11:00 a.m. contemporary services for the four weeks of Advent November 28, December 5, 12 and 19, as well as four Christmas Eve services. Contact Worship Chair Paul Booker at pbooker31@gmail.com or (856) 816-5121.

