

First Presbyterian Church
101 Bridgeboro Road
MAIL: PO Box 868
Moorestown, NJ 08057
fpcmoorestown.org
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
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

Nov. 28-Dec. 4, 2021



Way of the Week I (Nov. 28-Dec. 4)

1. BE THIRD. God is first, others are second, and you're third. Don't just think about your own interests, be interested in others. Don't think less of yourself, just think of yourself less and others more.

And all of you, dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." (1 Peter 5: 5)

- ◆ *Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. (Philippians 2: 4)*
- ◆ *And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. (John 13: 14, 15)*

Ideas for Action: Ask God, "Whom can I serve today?" Look for an opportunity to be last ... in line, the last to speak, or last to be served.

Advent Devotional Resource

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. Please see Alison Mackey.

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.

Advent Guide

We've prepared a special *Advent Activity Guide* with programming information for the season's events and special dates. There is something meaningful for all ages. Pick up your copy at church or read online.

Poinsettia Sales

Nov. 21, Nov. 28, Dec. 5. Order forms

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



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).

Alternative Gift Market Catalog is now available

Purchase gifts at church December 5, 12, 19 or ONLINE.

Church Has Left The Building Video

Watch a beautiful video summarizing this year's Church Has Left The Building event on October 24. Members and friends reached out in ministry with many opportunities. Many thanks to the Mission Committee and Linda Jagiela for a job very well done:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79PK3lo0XoM>

CREDO Meeting

High schoolers and their parents are invited to an information meeting **Sunday, Dec. 5** at 12:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for a spring CREDO confirmation class. The hybrid meeting will also be available via Zoom:

www.zoom.com

Meeting ID: 856 3774 1204

Passcode: FPCCREDO

Christmas Worship Schedule

Thursday, December 23

Christmas Eve Eve Service

- 3:00 pm Outdoor and 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, no Sunday School, nursery care or Adult Education

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](#).

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!

Evergreens Worship

Second Monday of the Month
NEXT: Monday, Dec. 8
10:00-11:00 a.m.

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!



Thanks to everyone for sending cards and for visiting. I have enjoyed the flowers from the Church. It's such a caring congregation.
Love, Betsy Gildehaus

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@fpcmooresville.org. Final statements for 2021 will be sent in January. Thank you for completing 2021 pledges before December 31.

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.

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.

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.

See page 4 for dates for our children and youth group Christmas parties/schedules

New Sermon Series

"What Are You Waiting For?"



Advent Devotional in a Bag

Families are encouraged to pick up an Advent Devotional in a Bag from the Commons Lobby, as we prepare ourselves for Christmas. Pick a time when the family can sit down together and follow the included devotional guide and its family activity, which will usually take about an hour. Make memories that include preparing your hearts for Baby Jesus. Holly Asciutto has assembled these kits and lessons specifically with your families in mind.

Year-End Giving

As 2021 comes to a close, several year-end giving opportunities are available including stock gifts, Christmas Green, and Christmas Joy mission fund. For information see our current events page.



NEW! Pick up a Family Advent Devotional Bag for a weekly devotional

Annual Christmas Parties

- ♦ **Wednesday, December 8:**
Kingdom Kids (4:45-6:00 pm)
Crossing Zone (6:30-7:30 pm)
- ♦ **Wednesday, December 15:**
Middle School Youth Group Party (6:30-8:00 pm)
- ♦ **Sunday, December 19:** High School Youth Group Christmas Party (6:30-8:30 pm). Bring a \$5 silly gift for a white elephant gift exchange



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

"Can any of the worthless foreign gods send us rain? Does it fall from the sky by itself? No, you are the one, O Lord our God! Only you can do such things. So we will wait for you to help us."

- Jeremiah 14: 22

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 is virtual again this year. Come to the church and pick up a kit for you and your family to decorate together, from November 14-23. **The challenge began on November 21 and ends 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 for Christmas Eve

Would your family like to light one of the Advent wreaths during the Christmas Eve worship services? We currently have openings for the 6:00 p.m., 8:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. services on December 24th. Contact Worship Chair Paul Booker at pbooker31@gmail.com or (856) 816-5121.

