



Sunday, December 26, 2021 ~ 1st Sunday of Christmas

9:30 a.m. Combined Worship (Sanctuary) -- Have you checked in on the Church Center app?

*please stand as you are able

Way of the Week #5

- 5. ASSUME POSITIVE INTENT.** Decide to trust that other members are being fair, honest, and concerned for the well-being of our church. Set aside your own judgments and preconceived notions. Surrender the urge to criticize and judge – it doesn't help Graciously give people the benefit of the doubt.

Ideas for Action: Take a "criticism inventory." Just how critical are you, really? Ask someone you love and trust to tell you how you're doing in this area. Try a 24-hour fast from all forms of criticism. No complaining or criticism for an entire day.

Welcome and Work of God's People

Wes Allen

Music in Preparation for Worship

Blessed Are They

Martin Bass, Tenor

Martin Bass

*Call to Worship

Wes Allen

The people who once lived in darkness have been given a great light!

Praise be to God who has heard our cries.

Our souls sing out God's praise!

God has brought us a light of Hope and Peace.

Today, in this place, the Light of God's Love is given to us!
And we shall see that light and let it shine through our lives. AMEN.

*Prayer of Adoration

Wes Allen

Call to Confession

Wes Allen

Prayer of Confession (offered in unison)

O God, we need the grace of the Lord Jesus to renew our commitment to you and your ways. We confess that our lack of faith has made us fearful. May your angels sing again to us of peace for body, mind, and soul. We acknowledge that we have foolishly let our desires lead us away from you. May your star once more set our course firmly in your direction. We admit that we have turned the practice of our faith into a lifeless ritual. May your manger call us again toward expressions *of devotion to you* and *of love for others*. We have selfishly kept our gifts and our hearts from you. May the Magi show us the way to sacrificial giving. Merciful God, may your Holy Spirit linger in our hearts and bring renewal to our lives. Amen.

Time for silent prayers of confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.

To all who welcomed Him, to those who trusted in His wonderful name, the Lord gave the right to become children of God. Amen.

Anthem

Sweet Little Jesus Boy

Martin Bass, Guitar

Spiritual

continued

Prayer of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer ('debts')

Stuart Spencer

Offertory

Stuart Spencer

*THANK YOU for your faithful giving and for remembering the church in your year-end giving. Your offerings dramatically impact our ministry, and allow us to support church operations and our work in the world. Those attending in person may leave an offering in the box located in the narthex. Electronic giving is here to stay! Take advantage of this simple, secure [automatic withdrawal](#). Donate directly from your phone via the Church Center app too. **Throughout December, donations for our Christmas offering may be submitted online, by check or by using the special Christmas Green envelopes.***

Offertory Music

He is Born, the Divine Christ-Child

Margaret Munro, Soprano; Joel Krott, Organ

France Carol

A Christmas Story

Stuart Spencer, Wes Allen

“The Best Christmas Pageant Ever”

Sermon Series: What Are You Waiting For?

Hymn

What Child is This?

Margaret Munro, Soprano

Traditional English Melody

Music in Preparation for Service

Lo, How a Rose

Joel Krott, Organ

Arr. Nixon

Benediction and Going Forth

Stuart Spencer

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9:30 a.m. Worship Ministry

Audio Technician:	Harris E. Ransom
Live Video Streaming:	Harris A. Ransom
Flower Arrangers:	Stacy Schaffer
Ushers:	Dave Rebuck, Brett Couvillion, James Clinton
Check-In Volunteers:	needed

Today's flowers are given by Lucy Rorke-Adams to the glory of God and in loving memory of her sisters Eva Rudisel and Harriet Balian.

continued

Work of God's People

- **Please remember the church in your year-end donations.** Process stock gifts expediently by contacting your broker or [Norman Vandergrift](#) at 856-235-1688, Ext. 112. Through January 2, 2022, Christmas offering donations may be submitted online, by check or by using the special Christmas Green envelopes. Checks must be dated no later than December 31 please.
- The church campus will be CLOSED Monday, Dec. 27 and Tuesday, Dec. 28 for the Christmas holiday. The church office will be open December 29, 30 and 31. Warmest wishes for a blessed and peaceful Christmas from the staff at First Presbyterian Church.
- **Donate to tornado relief** through Samaritan's Purse. Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and mail to the church, noting "Tornado Relief" in the memo line.
- **NEW: Submit an online prayer request** to the Prayer Committee. Visit the prayer page on the website at <https://www.fpcmoorestown.org/prayer> to share your prayer request with the prayer team.
- Today's worship on Sunday, December 26 will be one **combined worship** service at **9:30 a.m.** There will be no nursery care, adult education or Sunday School that day.
- We conclude the Season of Advent with a special **Epiphany Concert** on Sunday, January 9, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. featuring the Choristers, Chapel Choir and Adult Choir. The concert will also be live streamed at www.fpcmoorestown.org/live-stream.
- **Fostering a Spirit of Reconciliation** – Rev. Wes Allen and Dr. Leslie Spencer lead a 6-week study on The Confession of Belhar. The study will meet in person at the Spencer's home on **Thursday, January 6th** from 7:00-8:30 PM. The remaining classes will be offered via Zoom, with the final session in person. The Confession of Belhar emerged out of apartheid South Africa in 1986 and was adopted by the Presbyterian Church (USA) as a confession of faith in 2016. Belhar testifies to the unity, reconciliation and justice of Jesus Christ and the church's responsibility in bearing witness to this in the world. It is the hope of Dr. Spencer and Rev. Allen that this study will promote constructive conversations around issues of race, gender, and ability. [SIGN UP via Church Center](#) as space is limited to 8 people.
- **PW Winter Gathering** -- On Sunday, January 31 at 7:00 p.m., Kelly Maxted will be our speaker in Miller Commons and also via live stream (www.fpcmoorestown.org/live-stream). The program, "*When God says, 'Go!'*", will tell about her faith journey. Kelly and her husband, Luke are currently Fellows at UrbanPromise Camden. They are preparing to answer God's call to found UrbanPromise London with their two young sons Judah and Reuben. Luke is also currently working with our middle school youth program.
- The Membership Committee will be holding a three-part [Winter Inquirer's Class](#) for those interested in learning more about First Presbyterian Church and possibly joining the congregation: class meets **Wednesday Feb. 23;** 7:00-8:30 PM via Zoom; **Saturday, Feb. 26;** 9:00 AM-1:00 PM (in person); **Sunday, Feb. 27;** 12:00-1:00 PM with Session, received into membership (in person); **Sunday, March 6:** welcomed at worship. To SIGN UP contact Alison at 856-235-1688, Ext. 113 or amackey@fpcmoorestown.org or [register on the online Events page](#).
- Winter Break for fellowship groups: Kingdom Kids, Crossing Zone and Middle School Group return on Wednesday, Feb. 2. High School Group returns Sunday, January 30, 2022.